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# THE TIMES

No 62,115

THURSDAY APRIL 18 1985

23p

**THE TIMES**  
1785-1985  
**Tomorrow**

**Italian connection**  
An exclusive interview with Prince Charles before his tour of Italy

**Relief from famine**  
Bob Geldof turns from Band Aid to talk about "Number One"

**Mystery tour**  
Bernard Levin lauds the Cottesloe "Mysteries"

**move to the West End**  
First service  
Olympic medalists line up for the opening day of Badminton horse trials

## Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition daily prize of £2,000 was shared by two readers yesterday - Mr Phillip Large of Redditch, Wores and Mrs Kathleen Fenwick of Spilsby, Lincs. Portfolio list, page 20; how to play, information service, back page. On Saturday £22,000 can be won, the weekly prize of £20,000, plus the usual daily £2,000.

## Brewer is new CBI president

The next president of the CBI will be Mr David Nickson, chairman of Scottish and Newcastle Breweries. He takes over from Sir James Cresswell in May next year. Mr Nickson is chairman of the Countryside Commission for Scotland and a member of the Scottish Economic Council. He is a director of Clydesdale Bank, the Edinburgh Investment Trust and the General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation.

## Satellite lost

Astronauts on board the Soyuz T-10 shuttle ordered away from an £80 million dormant satellite after two efforts to reactivate it failed.

## Dock lease plan

The Secretary of State for Defence, Mr Michael Heseltine, said he favours leasing the Royal Dockyards at Devonport and Rosyth to commercial operators.

## Maxwell profits

BPCC, the printing company controlled by Mr Robert Maxwell's Penguin Press, has reported a pre-tax profit rise from £22 million to £37.8 million in 1984.

## 10 pages of jobs

The Times publishes today a special appointments section of 10 pages. The section is introduced with an article by Mr Clive Jenkins, of the white-collar ASTMS union, calling for Britain to train its workforce in the new industries. Pages 33-42.

## (SPECIAL REPORT)

Tomorrow a six-page Special Report looks at the rapidly changing face of London's Docklands, eight square miles of what is surely the most exciting and controversial development site in Europe.

## Leader page 15

Letters: On closure of village facilities from Mr N. Crisp; on British nuclear industry from Mr R. H. Campbell and Professor L. L. Franklin. FRS. Leading articles: IMF; Jasmine Beckford.

## Obituary, page 18

M. Olivier Wormser, Mr Geoffrey Elmore. Features, pages 11, 16. The emergency services under threat; France's left and right move closer together; Miles Kingston's Morocco; Profile of Lester Piggott.

## Books, pages 14, 15

James Fenton on a biography of Anna Freud; Richard Wigg on Spain after Franco; Fiona MacCarthy on Mary Stott; Geoffrey Moorhouse on the Sahara; Alan Gibson on cricket; John Nicholson on fiction. Classified, pages 29, 30.

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## All-party coalition formed to fight Thatcher on jobs

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

An Anti-Thatcherite coalition of senior politicians of all parties, industrialists, former top civil servants, leading churchmen, trade unionists and journalists is being created to attack the Government's record in employment and to promote alternative policies.

The alliance, which will embrace all political philosophies apart from the Conservative right-wing and will include former prime ministers, is being formed amid great secrecy to gain the maximum impact from its launch. But it is understood that Downing Street has been alerted of its existence.

Sir Ian Gilmour, a former Conservative cabinet minister and one of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's most outspoken critics, Mrs Shirley Williams, president of the Social Democrats, and Mr Michael Meacher, a member of Labour's shadow cabinet, will be leading positions in the organization.

The aim is to set up a research body, to be called the Employment Institute, to analyse the causes of unemployment and to push remedies for its reduction.

It will have a board of trustees and a 100-strong council, whose members will include Mr Denis Healey, the former Labour Chancellor, and

Sir Douglas Wass, former permanent secretary to the Treasury. There are also prominent positions for Mr James Callaghan and Lord Wilson of Rievaulx, former Labour prime ministers.

Mr Edward Heath has been invited to join. The chairman of the trustees is to be Sir Richard O'Brien, former chairman of the Manpower Services Commission who was dismissed by Mrs Thatcher. He was largely responsible for the introduction of the Youth Training Scheme, and is now chairman of the Policy Studies Institute.

A driving force behind the group is understood to be Professor Richard Layard, professor of economics at the London School of Economics.

The body's all-party nature, emphasized by the appointment of Sir Ian, Mrs Williams and Mr Meacher, as vice-chairmen of the trustees, is designed to spike a government counter-attack. Although the original aim was a launch at the beginning of May, it has been decided that it would be wrong to do so - given the involvement of all parties - then in county council elections.

The plan will embarrass the Government. The letter of invitation to join the council

sent to public figures says that its aim is to replace "the tide of defeatism about unemployment and re-establish the notion that government policy can and does affect unemployment for good or ill."

It states it is acting on behalf of people "who share our concern about the current and prospective level of unemployment." The exercise is two-pronged. Apart from the establishment of the institute, the objective is to launch a charter for jobs to promote public discussion "and to develop public awareness of the scope for action to tackle unemployment."

Although leading members of the venture were reluctant yesterday to discuss its activities, the aim is to mark out the common ground that exists in the opposition parties and the left of the Tory party over measures needed to reduce unemployment.

Recent opinion polls have confirmed that the Government's record on the jobs issue will form the main battleground in the run-up to the next general election. A MORI poll published in *The Standard* this month found that 85 per cent of respondents regarded unemployment as one of the most important issues facing Britain.

## Output rises as more go to work

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

The output of Britain's production industries rose by 1.7 per cent in the three months to February, compared with the preceding three months and manufacturing output rose by 1 per cent, according to new figures. But manufacturing employment fell by an average of 6,000 a month.

However, the employment department estimates that total employment rose by 142,000 in the last quarter of 1984, taking the total increase for the year to 346,000. Self-employment is thought to have risen by about 200,000; the number of employees in the service industries went up to 2,400,000, but the

number of jobs in other industries fell by 100,000.

The rate of increase in earnings slowed down between February and March, when the 12-monthly increase slowed to 7.4 per cent. But Mr Tom King, the Employment Secretary, said the rise was still "too high".

Details, page 21

## IMF leaders seek debt solution

By David Smith, Washington

The IMF's managing director, Mr Jacques de Larosiere, is attempting to persuade banks to continue their loans to Colombia despite the Latin nation's refusal, for political reasons, to submit to an official IMF programme.

In both the informal and formal sessions, the worsening plight of African nations, faced with drought and widespread starvation, is a dominant issue. Sudan, faced with mounting economic problems and a new government which must win the support of the IMF, is deeply in arrears on about \$130 million in payments to the fund. The IMF must decide how it plans to proceed in its repayment talks with Sudan and other African nations.

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor yesterday told the IMF that world economic conditions were the best in six years. After a painful period of adjustment, the major economies were now pursuing convergent policies which offered the prospect of sustained growth.

Mr Lawson is sceptical about the prospect for major reform of the international monetary system.

Asked by reporters about the proposal of the US Secretary of the Treasury, Mr James Baker for a special meeting on reform of the international monetary system, Mr Lawson said: "It is not entirely clear what he is proposing." He expected any changes in the system would be modest.

Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, said that competition was putting pressure on banks to engage in risky investment activities. He told a House banking sub-committee that Congress should expand banking powers and liberalize Federal restrictions on interstate banking.

Leading article, page 17

## Labour to keep home loans aid

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock yesterday repudiated any suggestion that Labour might wipe out mortgage interest tax relief, a possibility raised in a consultative paper issued by Mr Michael Meacher, shadow social services spokesman, on Monday.

The Labour leader has been incensed by the political reaction provoked by Mr Meacher's plans for the reform of the welfare state, which included the introduction of a housing allowance which would penalise tenants or owner-occupiers earning more than £15,000 a year.

He said in a BBC radio interview: "I am very annoyed with the way in which Michael Meacher's suggestions have been treated, especially since he went to considerable pains all along before Monday and on Monday, to demonstrate that these were proposals for discussion and not party policy."

Mr Kinnock also said yesterday that he was "astounded" that *The Times* should have given front-page prominence to Mr Meacher's statement on Tuesday the he hoped Labour would reduce unemployment by one million within five years. Labour policy is to create an additional million jobs with in two years.

The Labour leader said yesterday that Mr Meacher's statement had been "so obviously a slip of the tongue."



An Amal fighter celebrating victory over rival Sunni militias. Behind is the turret of a tank destroyed earlier

## Premier quits over Beirut militia war

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

After a night in which the militias of West Beirut turned the Muslim sector of the city into a place of terror and violence, killing at least 29 people and wounding 120, Mr Rashid Karami resigned as Lebanese Prime Minister yesterday in protest at what he called the "horrible nightmare" unleashed on the capital.

President Gemayel later asked Mr Karami to remain as caretaker prime minister, but half of Beirut remained last night in the hands of hundreds of Shia Muslim and Druze gunmen.

For more than 12 hours, militiamen from the Amal Shia Muslim movement and the Druze Progressive Socialist Party, had fought their way house by house and office block by office block through the darkened streets of the city, firing rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine guns indiscriminately into homes and hotels in a ferocious attempt to liquidate the rival Sunni Muslim Morabitoun militia.

For much of the night, the sky was lit by the fires from burning cars and houses, the streets resounding to massive explosions as convoys of ambulances took the wounded to overcrowded hospitals.

"No one can justify what is happening in our capital," Mr Karami said in a radio broadcast yesterday. His resignation

## Judge discharges spy trial jury

The jury at the Central Criminal Court, which was due to hear an espionage trial was discharged yesterday for legal reasons - which the judge ordered not to be disclosed - less than a day after being sworn in.

A new jury will be chosen on Monday after a panel of vetted potential jurors has been drawn up.

On Tuesday eight serving and former members of the Armed Forces pleaded not guilty to 31 charges under the Official Secrets Act in a case that could continue until next September. The defendants served with a signals unit in Cyprus and the alleged offences occurred between 1982 and 1984.

The jury was sworn in on Tuesday afternoon from a panel of 140 people. Eighty-four potential jurors were called before the jury was completed. Of those 13 were challenged and Mr Justice Stocker accepted excuses from 59 members of the panel who could not sit for a long trial.

## Heffer comes to defence of princess

By Richard Evans and Alan Hamilton

Mr Eric Heffer, the Labour MP for Liverpool Walton, last night sprung to the defence of Princess Michael and accused newspapers, including the *Daily Mirror*, of acting "absolutely disgracefully" for revealing her father's SS connections.

He was cheered by MPs when he told the Commons: "It is important that somebody, particularly on the left of the Labour party, should make it quite clear that we are not against people because their parents might have been Nazis or, in this country, Moslems or anything else."

"We are opposed to what those people stood for, not where their children stand. I think we have got to make that absolutely clear."

Mr Heffer, a member of the Labour Party's national executive, said: "I don't know her, I will never meet her, I don't particularly want to meet her, I don't know what her politics are. I am sure they are opposed to everything I believe in."

"But nobody, I repeat nobody, can be responsible for their parents."

Princess Michael of Kent said yesterday that she had called for evidence from Germany to prove that her father, whom she has admitted was a member of Hitler's SS, held only an honorary position.

In an interview recorded on Tuesday afternoon and broadcast by TV yesterday morning, the princess said that the disclosure that her father, Baron Gunther von Helldorf, had been a member of the SS had been "a total shock to everything I had been taught to believe". She had been brought up, she said, to believe that the SS had stood for such things as concentration camps.

"I have now discovered that he was not involved in anything like that at all."

A Buckingham Palace spokesman said yesterday that the princess had had a large number of messages from members of the public, with the overwhelming majority supporting her.

Yesterday's TV-am interview caused its own dispute, after the BBC taped the programme and rebroadcast it on its own rival *Breakfast Time* programme. Mr Justice Walton yesterday afternoon granted TV-am an injunction banning BBC from broadcasting its pirate edition.

Continued on back page, col 8

## Anger at All Black visit to S Africa

By Our Foreign Staff

The announcement by the New Zealand rugby authorities that the controversial All Blacks tour of South Africa will go ahead later this year caused furious reaction yesterday around the world, including South Africa.

The decision of the New Zealand Rugby Union, flying in the face of much public opinion at home, to accept the South African invitation was immediately described as disgraceful by the Wellington Government.

It dominated the meeting in Canberra between the New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr David Lange, and his Australian counterpart, Mr Bob Hawke.

Mr Lange, returning from a tour of Black Africa intended to forestall complaints against his Government, described the

decision as regrettable and "to the eternal shame" of the rugby union.

In Lusaka, The African National Congress - the banned South African black organization - said the players could risk their lives. The country was in a state of civil war, it said; they could get caught in the cross-fire. "Nobody can guarantee their safety," said a spokesman.

Bishop Desmond Tutu, Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg, said the planned tour was scandalous and would enrage anti-apartheid campaigners, while the president of the Union of African Sports Confederations called on the continent to end sporting links with New Zealand.

In contrast, Dr Danie Craven, president of the South African Rugby Board, described it as a bold decision which was "tremendous news for the cause of sport against politics."

But Mr Frank van der Horst, president of the South African Council of Sport, said the tour showed the "immoral acceptance of the evil system of apartheid."

The announcement ends months of speculation and signals the start of a protest campaign which many fear will see violence return to the streets on the pattern of the Springbok tour of New Zealand in 1981.

Mr John Minto, head of the anti-tour organization Hart, promised last night in Wellington to wage a 12-week campaign which will bring protesters on to

Continued on back page, col 8

## Assurances sought

Perth - Australian cricketers chosen for this year's tour to England will be replaced if they refuse to sign a compulsory declaration by next Tuesday, Mr Fred Bennett, the chairman of the country's cricket board said yesterday (*Reuters* reports).

Mr Bennett said: "The board is taking seriously the strong rumours that a number of Australian cricketers will undertake a tour of South Africa in November 1985." He refused to give details of the declarations' contents, but it is believed that if a player were to sign and then tour South Africa, he could be banned from playing for Australia.

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## Hygiene standards in hospital kitchens 'appalling'

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The Government was given details yesterday of a survey which union officials said showed that a quarter of all hospital kitchens were closed on hygiene grounds if the National Health Service did not have immunity from prosecution.

The survey, carried out by the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union, covered interviews with 45 environmental health officers from various parts of the country. Many complained that standards of hygiene in many hospital kitchens were "appalling".

The union, which has members who work in the kitchens, fears that the imminent public inquiry into the 19 deaths from food poisoning at the Stanley Royal hospital in Wakefield will show up deficiencies but that the Government will claim that

information on the conditions of selected kitchens - the first of his reports is due to be completed within 10 days.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, told union leaders yesterday that he took the allegations "very seriously" and would have talks with Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Health and Social Services. The allegations would be investigated and the Government would reply quickly.

## The allegations

- Inadequate preparation areas to isolate cooked from uncooked food, allowing the possibility of cross-infection and growth of salmonella.
- Inadequate checks on refrigerated food, which was being kept at temperatures too high or too low.
- Food not being cooled quickly enough, or reheated inadequately.

It was an isolated incident and did not reflect the overall standard of hospital kitchens.

Mr John Edmonds, who presented the information to Mr King, said the union had received complaints that health inspectors had been refused entry to some kitchens by hospital managements, while any infringements of health regulations could not be prosecuted because of Crown immunity from prosecution.

Some of the hospital kitchens are positive breeding grounds for salmonella.

The fresh survey will be carried out, he said, in hospitals with "national and international reputations". The union's dossier confirms allegations about hospitals such as St Thomas's, London, the Royal Liverpool, Royal Berkshire and several in Scotland.

At one hospital, more than 400 complaints by health inspectors about conditions in the kitchens were reduced to 340 by the time of a second visit a year later. "The fact that 25 per cent of hospital kitchens would face closure if the managements could be prosecuted struck us as a startling piece of information, and we were pleasantly surprised by the seriousness with which Mr King took the evidence," Mr Edmonds said.



## Heseltine wants franchised firms to run Navy dockyards

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, said yesterday that he favoured a franchise operation for the Royal Dockyards, with Devonport and Rosyth, along with their workforce, leased out to independent commercial operators.

Mr Heseltine told the Commons that he was not announcing a final decision on the yards, which employ 20,000 people and have an annual turnover of £400 million. "I am opening a period of consultation."

But he left little doubt that he intended to legislate for outside commercial management of the yards by the end of 1987.

Mr Denis Davies, Labour defence spokesman, said the consultative process to be completed by July 5, was cosmetic and a farce. "The Government's top option might be all right for a fast-food burger but it is unacceptable for the repair of warships."

Mr Heseltine said: "The proposal provides the best way forward since it secures continuing competition while maintaining control over the national strategic assets involved."

It would create a "latter, more flourishing enterprise", able to compete for non-defence contracts. In a personal message to the workforce, which is to be cut by 2,200 in the meantime, Mr Heseltine said that the franchise system was favoured and preferred.

But his announcement of job losses caused distress and dismay from the local MP, Miss Janet Fookes (Plymouth, Drake), and Mr Robert Hicks, South East Cornwall.

Dr David Owen, SDP MP for

Plymouth Devonport, said that dockyard workers would feel a deep sense of betrayal and Mr Heseltine's operation for the Royal Dockyards, with Devonport and Rosyth, along with their workforce, leased out to independent commercial operators.

A ministry booklet explaining the scheme, said: "Commercial companies with the appropriate management expertise and standing would be invited to tender for a contract, for a fixed period of years, to undertake at negotiated prices a substantial proportion of the Navy's refit and repair requirements. Separate contracts would in such a case be let for each dockyard."

"The contractors would use the dockyard assets (land, buildings and facilities, including plant and machinery) on terms to be agreed, but ownership would remain with the Government."

Special companies would employ the workforces at each yard, ownership of those companies would then pass to the franchise-holders and would be passed on to successor contractors. Security would be maintained by ministry police.

Trade unions reacted angrily to Mr Heseltine's announcement, saying they would resist the introduction of commercial management (David Felton writes).

Mr Jack Dromey, national officer of the Transport and General Workers Union, said that the Government was trying to "inflict a grocery competition on the Navy, irrespective of the harm done to Britain's defences".

## TUC ponders changes in its labour law strategy

By Our Labour Editor

Trade union leaders decided yesterday to continue their boycott of the Government's labour law, but left the door ajar for possible changes in the strategy.

The TUC's Employment Policy and Organisation Committee "noted" a policy paper on union experience of the legislation. The paper said the general council met to initiate any changes in the Wembley Conference programme of opposition.

But the document acknowledged that unions are increasingly coming round to the view that it is "necessary or even desirable" for them to reshape their practices to comply with the law on pre-strike ballots.

The committee agreed to keep the matter under review.

leaving the way clear for moderate unions that want to push through tactical changes.

Among those pressing for change are the Union of Communication Workers, the British Airline Pilots' Association, the white-collar union Apex and Mr Clive Jenkins' ASTMS. The TUC paper conceded: "If it becomes clear in time that there is a gap between TUC policy and what is happening on the ground, this policy will need urgent reconsideration."

However, that time has not yet come, the TUC argues, so unions will remain for the time being under instructions not to take the Government's money for pre-strike ballots and executive committee elections.

## Renoir draws London's longest queues to the South Bank



A queue outside the Hayward Gallery and "The Caben d'Anvers Girls" (right) from the exhibition. (Photograph: John Voos).

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The Renoir exhibition at the Hayward Gallery is now London's biggest single art attraction, with queues far longer than those for stage shows such as *Cats* or top pop concerts.

The Arts Council's show includes 99 paintings and one sculpture by the French Impressionist artist who died in 1919. The long queues along the South Bank are expected to last until the minute it closes on Sunday.

An Arts Council spokesman

said: "People have been queuing outside for hours even during the snow. The problem has been getting them through the gallery, there is a limit to how many people we can cope with in one day."

The exhibition, organized by the Arts Council with sponsorship from IBM, has attracted more than 335,000 people since it opened on January 30, an average daily attendance of 4,407 people paying between £1.50 and £2.50 each. By comparison, the musical *Cats*, which is playing to capacity audiences, has about 9,000 paying customers a week.

The exhibition moves to Paris and then to Boston after it closes in London. The show includes paintings from many private and public collections, one from the Pushkin, the other from the Hermitage.

The success of the Hayward exhibition has proved to be an embarrassment for the Greater London Council which owns the gallery but leases it to the Arts Council.

The GLC wants to make the gallery a London people's arts centre, but its efforts have been thwarted by the threat of legal action by the Arts Council.

## Echoes of the year-long national coal strike

### Pit deputies' leaders urge overtime ban over closures

From Craig Seaton, Nottingham

Leaders of the pit deputies' union Nacods yesterday recommended its 17,000 members to vote for an immediate overtime ban, claiming that the National Coal Board had gone back on an agreement over proposed pit closures.

The secret ballot, due to start on May 10, requires a simple 50 per cent plus one majority. If it is carried, its impact would be more severe than the miners' overtime ban. It could cut coal production by about a quarter.

Delegates attending a Nacods national conference in Nottingham yesterday insisted that the vote would be carried unless the coal board withdrew its plans to shut pits affected by the year-long miners' strike without first submitting the proposals to a modified review procedure.

Mr Peter McNestry, general secretary of Nacods, said the board's proposals to assess the problems at certain pits affected by the coal strike broke the agreement made between the two sides under the alphas of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service last October which prevented a national strike by his union. Members had voted by 82 per cent for industrial action.

Mr McNestry said: "We had an agreement with the coal board at Acat that all proposed pit closures would go through the modified review procedure and that was confirmed by the Secretary of State for Energy, the minister for coal and the Prime Minister. The board is now reneging on that October agreement."

He said the 50 delegates at yesterday's meeting had been particularly angered by a statement from the coal board on March 27 which said that assessments were being carried out at pits where damage had occurred because of the miners' strike. The statement had given a warning that in some circumstances where the cost of recovery could not be supported by a viable long-term future the "damage" may be judged to be "permanent and irreparable".

The statement also said: "In the disarray of Nacods - that such a post-strike strategy 'should not be regarded as action within the industry's normal joint procedures. Those procedures will be fully resumed when the detailed assessments have been made'."

The board's proposals over the future of pits - particularly

Bedwas in South Wales and Frances in Scotland - brought from Nacods a threat of possible new strike action in the coalfields. Although the union has pulled back from that, leaders yesterday insisted that their men are sufficiently angered by the board's attitude to vote for an overtime ban.

The coal board said last night that it would not comment on the Nacods meeting until it had heard officially from the union but a spokesman denied the board had taken a decision to close Bedwas colliery (the Press Association reports).

Twelve hundred miners at Askern colliery, near Doncaster, in the Yorkshire coalfield, were on strike last night over a dispute about production bonuses (Peter Davenport writes).

The men walked out earlier this week in an argument about rates of pay to be set when a newly commissioned colliery goes into full production.

At a mass meeting yesterday they decided to stay out for the rest of the week. A branch meeting of the union is to be held at the weekend when the men will decide on further moves.

### NUM asks rebels to drop litigation

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The National Union of Mineworkers is making overtures to "dissident" moderates in the Yorkshire area in an attempt to end the litigation that led to the union being put into the hands of a receiver.

It has been suggested that now the year-long strike is over, the NUM leadership and its critics ought to come to terms, allowing the case over which the union was fined £200,000 for contempt to be dropped.

But lawyers acting for the two Manton colliery miners, Mr Robert Taylor and Mr Kenneth Foulstone, are understood to be insisting on immunity from action against the two men under the NUM's new disciplinary procedures, the so-called "star chamber".

If an informal agreement cannot be reached, the full trial against the union for calling the strike without a ballot will go ahead. However, it is being argued that the 1984 Trade Union Act has ensured that NUM leaders will not be able to call a strike in similar circumstances and as the last dispute is now over there would be little point in pursuing the case.

However, the miners' union's legal troubles are far from over. The High Court yesterday adjourned until next week an application for the lifting of an injunction banning expenditure on mass picketing.

Mr Richard Slowe, counsel for the working miners, told Mr Justice Scott that if the injunction was lifted, the union could spend some of the £1.75 million still in its funds for retrospective payments to strikers who took part in mass pickets.

There are also still a number of other legal cases pending. They include the original "right to work" action brought by Nottinghamshire working miners, and the action that seeks to make the 25 members of the NUM national executive personally responsible for the £200,000 contempt fine.

But other cases relating to particular events that took place during the coal conflict have been dropped, and the NUM is expected to make early moves to free itself from the High Court sequestrators who were appointed last November to take money from union funds.

## TV crews 'contributed to pit gates car attack'

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

The presence of cameras and the behaviour of television crews contributed to a violent attack on a car driven by a Welsh working miner's wife, a court was told yesterday.

Magistrates at Aberdare, Mid Glamorgan, were told that a hostile crowd waiting outside a smokeless fuel plant were informed by a television crew on the scene that Mrs Joy Watson, a back-to-work campaigner, was about to arrive at the works.

Mr Gerald Jones, representing four women accused of threatening behaviour, said: "A clearer exhortation to arm yourself for battle there cannot be. I do not say that excuses what happened. But there is an element of incitement, of encouraging these people to act, which can only be described as playing to the camera."

Earlier demonstrations, when cameras had not been present, had been peaceful. Eight defendants, one man and seven women, admitted threatening behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace. They were each given a prison sentence of two months suspended for a year.

Mr David Rowlands, the supervising magistrate, said: "Scenes shown nationally on television caused a lot of disturbance throughout the country as a whole. The very presence of TV cameras seems to have caused some of those scenes. Their very presence caused you to react in a way they might not have done if they had not been there."

Mr Michael Ryan, for the prosecution, said Mrs Watson

was confronted by a number of protesters as she drove her husband to work and home again on the day of the incident in March.

Confrontation had reached "boiling point". It was close to mass hysteria, he said. "Missiles were thrown at the vehicle."

The eight accused were: Royston Griffiths, taxi driver, of Park View Terrace, Abercromby, and Glamorgan; Angela Hunkin, of John Street, Abercromby; Jennifer Beck, of Fernhill Street, Glenbry, Mountain Ash; Marilyn Barber, of Glenbry, Mountain Ash; Margaret Watkins, of John Street, Abercromby; Deborah Brace, of Hawthorne Terrace, Mountain Ash; and Lynwen Hobbs, of John Street, Abercromby.

Deborah Brace and Lynwen Hobbs were also bound over in the sum of £150 to keep the peace for a year and ordered to pay £35 compensation for damaging Mrs Watson's car.

Ms Deborah Davies, of Park View Terrace, Abercromby, elected a crown court trial and was remanded on unconditional bail until May 22. She was accused of causing bodily harm to Mrs Watson.

Lynne Morgan, of Hawthorne Terrace, Mountain Ash, agreed to be bound over in the sum of £150 to keep the peace for a year, after a charge of threatening behaviour was withdrawn.

Pontefract magistrates court sent 25 miners for trial yesterday on charges arising out of an alleged attack on a working miner, Mr Michael Fletcher, at his home at Castleford, West Yorkshire, last November (the Press Association reports). They were allowed bail.

## Bank staff vote on action

By Our Labour Correspondent

Barclays Bank employees who belong to a staff association have voted to take industrial action, with the result that the bank could suffer an overtime ban from May 1 unless there is an increase in a 5.5 per cent pay offer.

The recommendation for industrial action was made by the non-TUC Clearing Banks Union, which represents staff associations in Lloyds, Barclays and National Westminster. Nationally the union failed to

achieve the 75 per cent majority, on a 67 per cent poll, necessary under its rules to authorize action.

However, staff in the Barclays Group Staff Association registered a 62.7 per cent vote in favour of action, which exceeds the recently introduced rule specifying that a 60 per cent majority is required before official action can be taken.

Bank union leaders have called for fresh talks with the banks

## Argument not on merits of rates

The critical argument in this Government, however, has never been on the merits of domestic rates, but on what could replace them. The air is now filled with reports of a poll tax, or a residents charge, as one is led to believe is the polite term.

This idea is not a swift and simple response to Scottish grief. The Department of the Environment has begun its inquiry into local government finance last year, and there are other possibilities under consideration, a local income tax, and some kind of consumer tax, presumably a sales tax. But a poll tax is the department's front-runner and ministers must be particularly eager at the moment to settle on something.

The advantage a poll tax is that, as nearly everyone would pay it, all voters would have a direct interest in their local authority's level of spending. There are, however, some difficulties. I am not thinking principally of the objection that such a scheme would involve in effect a charge for being on the electoral register.

That list does not include aliens, who are not eligible to vote, but are liable to be taxed, and a different register would probably be drawn up for a poll tax. Even if it were not, it is hard to imagine that Mrs Thatcher would be deflected simply by such a constitutional nicety from what she regarded as an otherwise satisfactory proposal.

## Too late for poll tax before election

But who would pay? Surely not everyone, no matter how poor. Where would the cut-off be? Would there have to be so many exemptions that the level of payment needed to be quite high in some areas if a poll tax was to replace the domestic rates? Yet the Government would get the worst of both worlds if it was just going to top up the present rating system. There would be the obliquity of introducing a new tax without any credit for getting rid of an old one.

Political opponents would have enormous scope to run scare stories until the new system was actually in operation. The Government could not specify in advance what the poll tax would be because it would have to vary according to each authority's level of expenditure.

Yet it is already too late to have a poll tax in operation before the next general election. The earliest possible timetable would be a consultative document by the end of the year and a commitment to legislate in the Queen's Speech of 1986.

This leaves two alternatives: to legislate before the next election without introducing the new system until after it, or simply to draw up a specific proposal for legislation in the next Parliament. Either way, a poll tax would feature prominently in the election campaign, which would hardly be the best way for the Conservatives to win it. Having a poll tax might solve some of the Government's problems, but getting one would seem likely to create more.

## Charter airline blames unfair competition

By Our Labour Correspondent

Britannia Airways, Britain's biggest charter airline, which is owned by Thomson, is cutting jobs by 350 this year and blames "unfair competition" by British Airways as the main cause.

Five of the line's 31 Boeings are to be sold, and pilots, cabin staff, and engineers will be affected by reduced recruitment this summer, by early retirement or redundancy, voluntary or otherwise.

Britannia blames the Government for failing to protect the interest of independent charter airlines.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$24; Belgium 8.75; Canada 12.75; Denmark 12.50; France 12.50; Germany 12.50; Greece 12.50; Hong Kong 12.50; India 12.50; Italy 12.50; Japan 12.50; Korea 12.50; Malaysia 12.50; Mexico 12.50; Netherlands 12.50; New Zealand 12.50; Norway 12.50; Portugal 12.50; Singapore 12.50; South Africa 12.50; Spain 12.50; Sweden 12.50; Switzerland 12.50; Taiwan 12.50; Thailand 12.50; USA 12.50; West Germany 12.50.

## Rail strikes could bring £500,000 damages claim

By Our Labour Correspondent

British Rail said last night that unions could face claims for damages of £500,000 after yesterday's one-day strike which paralysed services in Scotland, and for the 24-hour stoppage in the Midlands and Yorkshire last January.

Union officials have been sceptical of British Rail's willingness to take legal action under the Government's labour laws, but British Rail managers were saying that the unions would be mistaken if they thought that it would shy away from seeking compensation.

Yesterday's strike, which received total support from the National Union of Railwaymen's 12,000 members in Scotland, was called in protest at the prospective loss of 1,250 jobs at the Springburn locomotive works in Glasgow. The union argues that the job cuts are a prelude to closure.

Only one train ran in Scotland. A union official said the "tremendous" support for the strike showed that railway workers understood the union's case over the Springburn works, which is in an area with 36 per cent unemployment.

British Rail estimated that its normal daily revenue in Scotland was about £250,000, exactly the maximum it can claim from the union under the 1982 Employment Act. Any legal moves would initially be brought under last year's Trade Union Act on the grounds that the NUR had lost immunity to civil action because it had not held a ballot of its members.

It issued a statement to "emphasize" that it was still collecting information on the January 17 stoppage by the NUR and the train drivers' union, Aslef, in the East Midlands and South Yorkshire.

Mrs Monica Chatters, aged 39, escaped unhurt after an RAF Hawk trainer ploughed through her cottage's thatched roof and into a field, in Neding Tye, Suffolk yesterday. The pilot had ejected to safety.

## Blocked tax deal costs museum £200,000

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

The National Museum of Wales is buying for about £200,000, two magnificent Flemish portraits about which it had hoped to get for nothing.

The museum joins the list of institutions suffering from the Government's restriction on the acceptance of works of art in lieu of tax. A limit of £1 million for acceptances during 1984-85 was announced at the end of last year. The portraits were offered in payment of transfer tax but turned down.

The portraits, depicting an unknown lady and gentleman against landscape backgrounds,

are the work of Marten van Heemskerck. They date from the mid-sixteenth century and are probably the finest Flemish Mannerist portraits in the UK.

They used to belong to the Beit collection and were inherited by the late Mrs Arthur Bull, Sir Alfred Beit's sister. The family loaned them to the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff in 1982 and they have hung there ever since.

The paintings were offered to the nation last year in lieu of tax, with a market valuation of £400,000.

Police second for B bon

## Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

Mrs Thatcher has never needed much prodding to do something about the rates. She could well echo the words of Churchill in another context: "I am something of a prod myself."

In the October 1974 general election she was the Shadow minister who presented the Conservative pledge to abolish the rating system. The party lost the election, but she has never forgotten the promise. If she and her colleagues required any further incentive to action it has now been provided by the bruising experience of revaluation in Scotland.

The broad effect of this exercise has been to ease the burden on business and to increase it on householders. In other words, to help the ratepayers without a vote and to hurt those with one. This may accord with the doctrine of accountability that local authority spending should have an impact on the electorate - but it is not smart politics.

Scottish Conservatives are in turmoil and the deficiencies of the domestic rating system have been imprinted all the more firmly on ministerial minds. It is too narrowly based and too inflexible without frequent revaluation, and it would be unthinkable for the Government to impose a repeat of the Scottish upheaval on England and Wales. More revaluation is out.

Cap solar mer from Britain

Images award for false pictures

de death



## Police seeking second suspect for Brighton bombing

By Stewart Tindler, Crime Reporter

Police investigating the Brighton bombing disclosed yesterday that their main suspect was accompanied by another shadowy person when he stayed in the Grand Hotel three weeks before the Conservative Party conference.

For some time the police have said they want to interview a "Roy Walsh" who stayed in room 629 where the bomb was left. The man was booked in from September 15 to 18. Yesterday, after a Brighton inquest recorded verdicts of unlawful killing on the five people who died when the delayed action bomb erupted on October 12, Detective Chief Superintendent Jack Reece, of Sussex police, said it appeared Walsh was not alone.

Walsh and the other person were discovered to have eaten lunch together in the hotel's restaurant on September 15. Over the weekend sandwiches and drinks for two were delivered to room 629.

During the inquest Mr Reece told Mr Edward Grace, corner for the western district of East Sussex, that every guest in rooms 628, 629, 528, 529

## Children of divorced make worse parents

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Young children who experience the divorce or separation of their parents are more likely to have poor relationships with their own children according to a study that has followed more than 5,300 children since their birth in 1946.

They are more likely to have undemonstrative relationships with their children by age of four, and are less likely to take them to nurseries or playgroups, take part in imaginative play with them at home or read to them, and tell them stories.

By the age of eight these children were more likely to play with those younger than themselves were likely to be below average popularity at school, and do worse in tests of verbal ability than children whose mothers said they had warm relationships with their offspring at the age of four.

The findings come from the Medical Research Council's National Survey of Health and Development, started in 1946, which has followed a third of all the children born in Britain in one week in March of that year.

The effects were most marked when divorce or separation came before the child was aged five.

Adoption and Fostering Volume 9 Number 1, 1985.

## Cheap solar power from Britain

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A system invented by a British university research team for converting the sun's energy into electricity, developed by US and Japanese firms, is at last to be made in Britain. Even now, the factory for making solar cells from a material known as amorphous silicon has been built by the American high technology company Chromar Corporation.

The new plant at Bridgend, South Wales, is to produce photovoltaic panels for an international solar energy market that has grown to £240 million a year, and in five years' time is expected to exceed £800 million. Until the discovery of amorphous silicon, conversion of sunlight to electricity by the photovoltaic process was slow to develop because of the high price of solar cells.

The pioneering work was done by two physicists, Professor Walter Spear and Dr Peter LeCombe, at Dundee University. It opened the way to manufacturing cheap solar cells. Professor Spear said yesterday that the discovery originally evoked no interest from British companies or the Government-backed, agency responsible for exploiting university inventions, the National Research and Development Corporation (now part of the British Technology Group). Instead, the idea was taken over by US and Japanese manufacturers.

In the meantime, further research at Dundee was provided by advances in amorphous silicon that could cut drastically the cost of electronic memories and other devices associated with developments in microcomputers and robotics.

The material is in a non-crystalline state, whereas the better-known silicon chip is forged from a perfect crystal. The cure needed to obtain a process of the pure crystalline material imposes severe restrictions in applications such as solar energy.

Amorphous silicon circuits are made in a continuous production process, in which silicon is deposited on a thin strip of foil from a jet of gas.

## Damages award for false nude pictures

A former television quiz show hostess, Anthea Redfern, won substantial libel damages and costs in the High Court yesterday over a nude photograph, said to be of her, in the magazine *Club International*. Miss Redfern, aged 33, the former wife of the television entertainer, Bruce Forsyth, did not pose for Mr Paul Raymond's magazine in 1983. Her counsel, Mr John Fitzgerald, told Mr Justice Mansfield that the photographs in the "Celebrity Nude Feature" were of someone with a similar facial appearance.

Other pictures of Miss Redfern and Mr Forsyth fully clothed, part of the feature, were included without their knowledge, he said.

Miss Redfern from Warfield, Berkshire, rose to prominence as the hostess in Bruce Forsyth's *Generation Game*. They divorced in 1982.

## Blaze death

Brian Shawcross, aged 49, a council driver, died yesterday after suffering 90 per cent burns when he set himself alight with petrol outside his home in Kent Avenue, Stockport. Greater Manchester, on Tuesday.

## Minister eyes drug traffickers' profits

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

New powers to seize profits from drug trafficking are being considered by the Government. They include reversing the burden of proof, as is done in the United States.

That would require a suspect to prove the legitimacy of his or her assets, rather than it having to be shown that they were acquired legitimately.

Mr David Mellor, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, who has returned from a visit to the United States to study anti-drug methods, said yesterday: "I find it difficult to think we could make effective progress without reversing the burden of proof." Referring to studies of confiscation, he said at a press briefing: "The difficulty is getting clear rules that the courts can enforce and are effective. We are trying to build on the 1972 criminal bankruptcy arrangements that have not been a great success."

"We are looking at a report of a committee of lawyers and others chaired by Mr Justice Hodgson and known as the Howard League for Penal Reform. I think we are in the

business of trying to find a more peremptory power than exists at the moment."

The bankruptcy arrangements Mr Mellor referred to were introduced under the Criminal Law Act, 1972. When a crown court convicts an offender whose offences have led to loss or damage to known persons exceeding £15,000 it may make a criminal bankruptcy order against the offender.

Mr Mellor, chairman of the ministerial group on the misuse of drugs, said there was a real head of steam in Parliament and in Britain to take steps on seizure that might not have been contemplated a few years ago.

He said that the United States had "powers of seizure subject to action being taken by the individual to obtain the property back."

An added problem was "laundering" of money, Mr Mellor said. Banks in the United States have to disclose when more than \$10,000 in cash was paid in any transaction.

## No change in smear test fees defended

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Health ministers yesterday defended their decision not to pay a special fee to family doctors for carrying out cervical cancer smears on women aged 30 and under (Nicholas Timmins writes).

The British Medical Association had proposed that the existing fees, paid for smears on women aged 35 or over who have had three or more pregnancies, should be frozen or even reduced slightly to allow doctors to be paid for tests on women aged 20, 25 and 30, which a government advisory committee has recommended should also be screened.

But Mr John Patten, Under-Secretary of State for Health, said the proposal would not help to ensure that the women most at risk of cervical cancer—those aged over 35 or with three or more pregnancies—were reached.

Ninety-four per cent of deaths from cervical cancer were in that group, but only 45 per cent of smears were taken from such women.

GPs were paid through their general fees and allowances for cervical cytology. "We do not believe it is necessary to introduce another fee to encourage GPs to do a job they should be doing and generally are doing already."

## 'Innocent man wrongly jailed for killing'

A former police officer was jailed for a killing he did not commit, a Manchester Crown Court jury was told yesterday. Noel Fellowes served four years of a seven-year sentence for the manslaughter of an elderly coin dealer who was strangled by bonds used to tie him. That conviction was described in court as a "tragic mistake", because another man had since admitted tying up the coin dealer after a fight.

Mrs Helen Grindrod, QC, for the prosecution alleged that William Clark told detectives: "I am told a man called Fellowes was convicted for this, but he did not have any part in it."

Mr Clark, aged 38, of Openshaw, Manchester, denies the manslaughter of Mr Harold Parkinson, aged 67, who was found dead at his home in Overton, near Morecambe, 15 years ago.

A month after the killing, Mr Fellowes, who is now a successful businessman in Berkshire, was arrested for murder and later convicted of manslaughter. "The Crown now say to you that that was a tragic mistake," Mrs Grindrod told the jury.

The investigation into the killing was reopened last year. Mr Clark, it was alleged, admitted going to Mr Parkinson's home to steal. A fight began when Mr Parkinson surprised him.

The trial continues today.

## London arts safe from grant loss

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

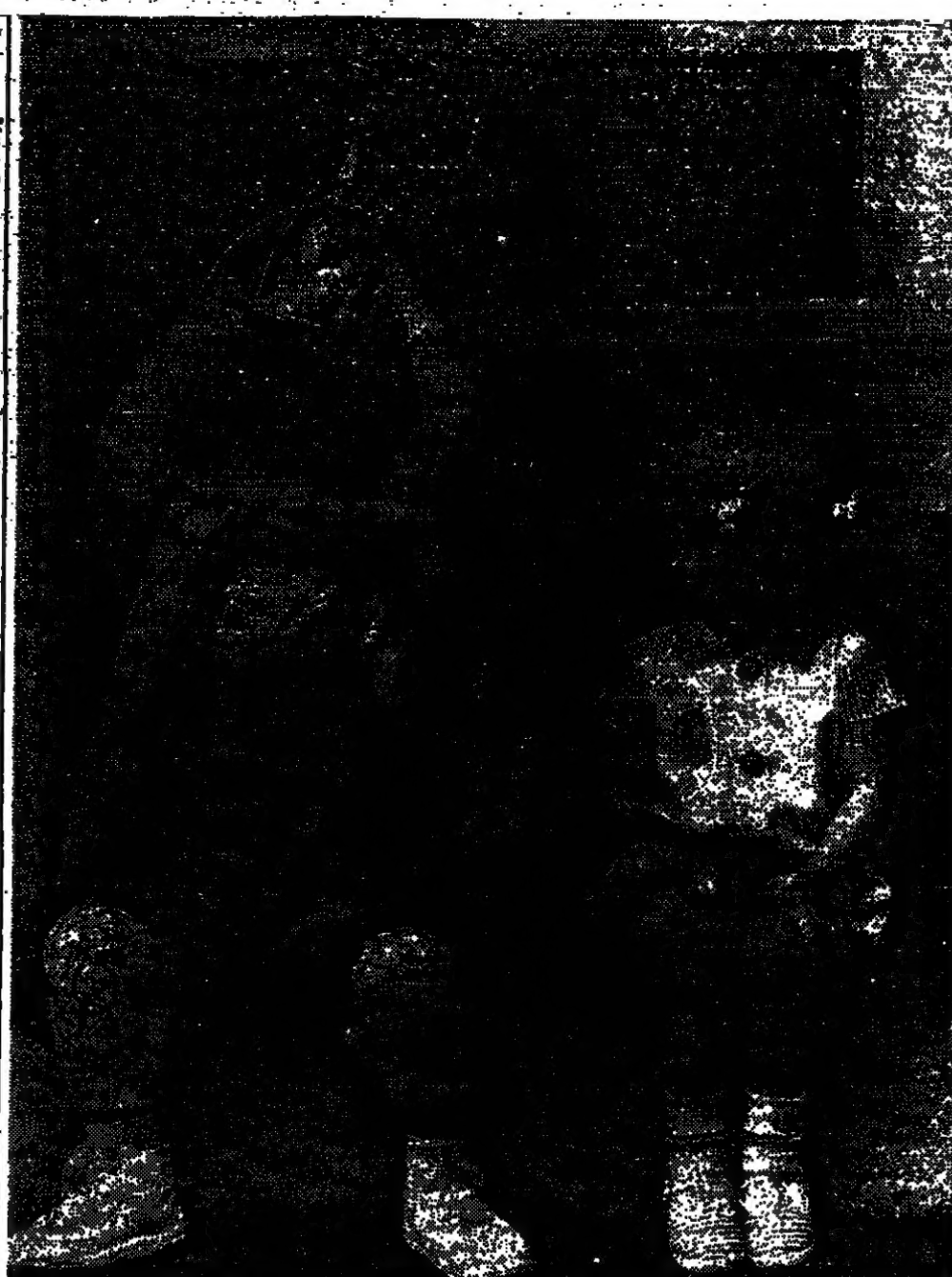
London arts organizations now seem safe from the threat of a sudden withdrawal of GLC grants, and most will receive a 5 per cent inflation increase in their support from the council this year.

Mr Peter Pitt, chairman of the GLC's arts and recreations committee, confirmed yesterday that the National Theatre's Cottesloe auditorium, which closes on Saturday, is expected to reopen in August or September with the council's backing. The council will also pay £25,000 for the Cottesloe's existing production of three mystery plays to transfer to the Lyceum in partnership with the National and the commercial theatre group Theatre Projects. It will run for 12 weeks.

restoring drama to the Lyceum for the first time since 1939. For the past 40 years the Lyceum has been used as a ballroom, and its open floor is thought ideal for the promenade performance style of the mystery plays.

In February Sir Peter Hall, director of the National Theatre, announced that the Cottesloe would close, and the National would make 100 staff redundant, because of the low level of Arts Council grant. Now, the theatre's foyer performances have been saved by private sponsorship, and the GLC has stepped in to save the Cottesloe, though about half of the jobs are still expected to be lost.

Mr Pitt pledged yesterday



Togs for toddlers: Errol Richardson (left) wearing his mother's winning entry in a children's fashion contest at the Savoy Hotel yesterday. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

## £937,000 football pools win

Mr Dennis Turner, a factory worker, aged 51, yesterday collected a record £937,807 pools jackpot for a 36p stake.

Mr Turner picked his matches at random. "I tried using the same numbers each week for several years but never came near to winning, and after 25 years of doing the pools this is the first time I've ever won", he said.

After 30 years as a machine operator at a tyre factory, Mr Turner of Smallthorne, Burslem, Staffordshire will retire.

"Now I can afford to do all the things I've ever wanted to," he said. They included buying a new car, taking a holiday in the US and buying houses for his daughters.

His jackpot came from an 8 from 10 full perm with Littlewoods, winning one first, two third and 14 fifth dividends. He received his cheque at the Hilton Hotel, London, from the actor Howard Keel.

## Caterer banned for strike food

Mr Ernest Grosvenor, a caterer, has been barred from catering for a banquet next month for the new Mayor of Chesterfield, because he provided tea and sandwiches for the police during the miners' strike.

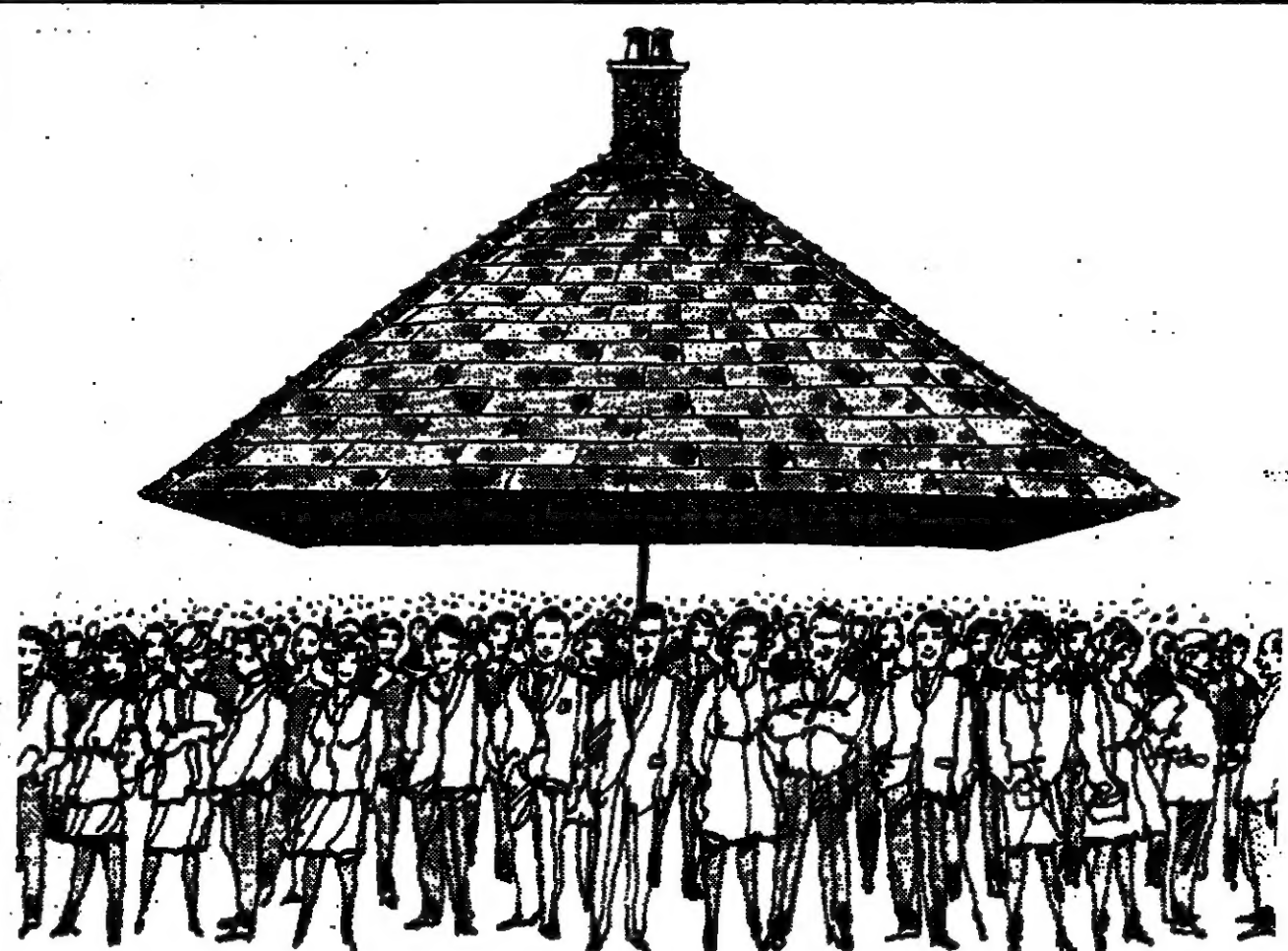
Mr Bill Flanagan, the Labour leader of the council, said: "Mr Grosvenor has been blacklisted for feeding policemen drafted into the area to confront strikers during the pits dispute." The council gave £50,000 and other support to strikers' families.

## Pensioner fined

Tommy Belfield, aged 70, smashed a glass door with a shillelagh at a wedding reception, while trying to stop a fight, magistrates at Reigate, Surrey, were told yesterday. He was fined £100 and ordered to pay compensation of £56 after admitting possessing an offensive weapon and damaging the door.

## Mercy flight

An RAF Hercules aircraft flew from RAF Lyneham, Wiltshire, to Gibraltar to collect the seriously ill son, aged one day, of an Army lance corporal. The baby was in a stable condition yesterday in the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford.



## 1984-TWO MILLION NEW INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS

- Growth of 18.7% pushing total assets up close to £17bn
- Reserves up £86m at £618m
- 2 million new investment accounts opened
- Lending 21% up even on the record year in 1983
- Net receipts from investors of £1.5bn
- Liquidity at a level which will provide healthy support for 1985 lending activity
- More than £1 bn of all advances was on pre-1919 property
- Further advances were up 29% at £317m

Among the points made by the Chairman, Sir Campbell Adamson, at the Abbey National Annual General Meeting held on the 17th April, 1985 were:

"Overall, a year of success in attracting investments and a major increase in mortgage lending. All this was achieved against an increasingly volatile interest rate background in the latter part of the year."

"Government moves towards deregulation and fiscal neutrality are also becoming increasingly felt. Recent measures have served to remove many of the differences between banks and building society operations in the personal financial sector, with the result that the intense competition will increase."

"The Green Paper provides a framework for Abbey National to play a greater role in the developing financial scene. But, and I cannot emphasise this too forcefully, our prime aim is to ensure that the needs of our nine million investment account holders and one million borrowers are fully met and additional services will be added with this in mind."

"Current Interest Rates  
"We are committed to ensuring that our investing members receive as good a deal as with any other financial institution. Because of the general rise in competitive rates recently we have increased our interest rates twice in 1985. Real investment returns from

Abbey National are the best ever. We regret that the circumstances have inevitably led to higher mortgage rates."

**Investment Limits Removed**  
"Previous investment limits imposed by the Revenue have been removed. The Society will now accept any amount. In addition to the personal account range, a money market account is available."

**Service**  
"In June, we will introduce the first in a new network of automated teller machines which will provide additional free facilities, day and night. By the end of 1985 we expect to have more than 200 units throughout the country. Not only in our branches but also in other retail outlets. Abbey National is part of a major consortium which will soon have a network of 1,000 machines throughout the country, each of which will be available to our members."

**Housing and Mortgage Finance**  
"Almost £4 bn was advanced to 180,000 borrowers, half of whom were buying for the first time. 93,000 borrowers received further advances to improve their homes. Management and financial resources have been directed into urban renewal and by the end of 1984, over 1,000 housing units had been

completed or were under construction by Abbey Housing Association."

"The adoption, by the EEC commission of the draft directive aimed at liberalising mortgage credit, brings us closer to a position whereby we might operate in other European countries as we have been planning to do since the opening of our Brussels office in 1979."

**The Green Paper**  
"While the final shape of the legislation is yet to be decided upon, some of these permissible activities indicate a level of risk somewhat higher than has previously been the case. Involvement in them will depend on the strength of our financial reserves. This will place a premium on establishing realistic operating margins and containing all costs."

"Our firm belief is that legislation should recognise the greater capabilities and interests of the major societies by treating them less restrictively than the smaller ones. What we want is the freedom to provide the wide range of personal financial services we think you, our members, have a right to expect. What we shall not lose sight of is that our greatest strength is our membership base and our main task must always be to preserve it."

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FULL COPIES OF THE ANNUAL REPORT AND SPEECH ARE AVAILABLE FROM: THE SECRETARY, ABBNEY NATIONAL BUILDING SOCIETY, ARMY HOUSE, BAKER STREET, LONDON NW1 4NL.



# Heseltine sets out options for dockyards

## MPs clash over right to speak on race-row head

### DEFENCE

The options which would enable the royal dockyards at Devonport and Rosyth to have sufficient freedom from Civil Service constraints to be able to operate efficiently in a competitive environment were full privatisation or a system of commercial management. Mr Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, declared in a Commons statement.

He explained that under a system of commercial management each dockyard while remaining in Government ownership would be operated for a period of years by a company chosen by the Government following an open competitive process. Under either option the Government would insist that control remained in British hands.

Mr Heseltine announced that he was issuing an open Government document to explain to those who worked in the dockyards the likely consequences of change. There would be wide consultations over the next two to three months and he intended to announce a clear way forward before the summer recess.

The option of commercial management seemed to the Government to be the best way forward since it secured continuing competition while maintaining control over the national strategic assets involved. It would require legislation.

This option, like full privatisation, also offered the prospect of outside work for the dockyards from customers other than the Ministry of Defence. It implemented the said we could look forward to a faster, more flourishing enterprise.

Mr Dennis Davies, chief Opposition spokesman on defence, said the consultation exercise was cosmetic and a farce. These were privatisation proposals and the Government's preferred option of franchising all right for all right for food bar but was unsatisfactory for the repair of warships.

Mr Heseltine said the royal dockyards employed some 20,000 people; their turnover was £400 million a year. They repair all our nuclear powered submarines (he said) including the Polaris force and nearly 80 per cent of our conventional warship fleet.

There has over the years been a succession of studies and reports on the future of the dockyards. These reports generally agreed that change was essential. But all previous attempts to introduce a changed structure have come to nothing. This Government believes that it is essential to get full value for money from the defence budget. If we are to achieve this in the dockyards, three main conditions need to be met.

First, local managers must have the freedom and authority to manage in a more competitive environment.

Second, the dockyards as suppliers of services to the Fleet must be separated clearly from their customer.

Third, their financial and accounting arrangements must reflect normal commercial practice so that the true price of the work can be properly judged.

The main options for change range from the creation of a trading fund to full-scale privatisation. Although it would be possible to achieve some improvements within the existing framework, the Government believes that this would not give the enterprise sufficient freedom from Civil Service constraints for it to operate efficiently in a competitive environment.

The House will recall the many successful transfers to the private sector from the public sector achieved by this Government. In these cases the rights of employees have been protected. Similar protection would form part of a dockyards move to the private sector. The Government chooses that option.

Whenever the new framework for the longer term there is an inescapable need for adjustments to the workforce in the short term in order to improve dockyard efficiency. Management will be

discussing the way forward with the unions involved starting with the Royal Dockyard at Devonport. The package of efficiency measures will be looking for may involve job reductions at Devonport of about 15 per cent and at Rosyth of about 5 per cent.

Natural wastage and voluntary redundancy can be expected to achieve most of the reductions sought by management, particularly at Rosyth. Compulsory redundancy will be used only in the last resort.

My department, as would any good employer, will do all that it can to alleviate the effects of the efficiency measures, particularly it will consider how new business and employment opportunities in these areas might be fostered, including work in support of the new dockyard organisation.

I intend to ask the Under Secretary of State for Defence Procurement (Mr John Lee) to take a particular interest in coordinating the efforts required in this positive approach.

These two dockyards have served the Royal Navy and the nation loyally for many generations. I wish to stress that under this Government their long-term future is assured.

But in giving this assurance and recognising the significance of the yards to their local economies, I must also expect them to be on proper levels of efficiency. I believe that the Government will accept that there is broad agreement that change in the management of the dockyards is needed now.

Mr Davies said this was another piece of ideological nonsense from a Government more concerned with its own dogma and prejudices than with the objective analysis of national defence.

We believe these privatisation proposals (he said) will be bad for the Royal Navy, for the ships and those who sail in them, for the workforce of 20,000 or more who have lost their jobs from today - and will be bad for the taxpayer, because we believe the taxpayer will have to pay more than at present.

The most bare-brained proposal contained in the report of Peter Levene, which was clearly distorted by that of franchising out a number of years, either four, five, six or seven.

It is not suitable (he went on) for a fast food burger bar but it is totally unsuitable for the yards of frigates and submarines of the Royal Navy.

Mr John Maffair's report stated that this option would open the way for getting the most of all worlds. It would cost more at the end of the day than at the moment.

Mr Heseltine said Mr Davies clearly did not understand the proposals. The franchise system had worked in the steel industry.

Mr James Fookes (Plymouth) said that while he warmly welcomed Mr Heseltine's confirmation that there was a long-term future for the dockyards, he viewed with dismay the short-term position that involved the shedding of jobs. He asked what steps would be taken to alleviate the situation for those whose job prospects were reduced.

Mr Heseltine replied that the unions were helping the first meeting today with local management representatives to look at the broad outline. The present job levels could probably be reduced by 15 per cent, that was about 2,000

### EDUCATION

Conservative and Labour MPs today accused each other of disgraceful behaviour in the Commons last night during an adjournment debate on Mr Ray Honeyford, the Bradford headmaster suspended for his remarks about race relations.

The debate ended in uproar after Labour MPs used points of order to prevent Mr Robert Dunn, Under-Secretary of State for Education and Science, from replying to an adjournment debate initiated by Mr Marcus Fox (Shipley, C).

Mr David Smeeth (Bury South, C), on a point of order, complained that the proceedings last night had been constantly interrupted on spurious points of order by Mr Madden (Bradford, Lab) and Mr Andrew Bennett (Denton and Reddish, Lab). He said this was a dangerous precedent and the behaviour of the MPs not only denied his constituent Mr Honeyford a ministerial reply, but was a flagrant and disgraceful abuse of the procedures of the House. (Conservative cheers and shouts of "Disgraceful".)

Mr Madden said Mr Fox had made an extremely provocative speech concerning parents who were his constituents who had children at a school in his constituency. He wrote to Mr Fox and to the education minister asking to intervene in the debate to explain his point of view.

Mr Fox said that the suspension of Mr Honeyford had become a national issue.

Mr Harold Walker, Deputy Speaker, said not only was he present in the latter part of the proceedings last night but he had read carefully the transcript of the proceedings. These were all matters dealt with last night by the other Deputy Speaker (Mr Ernest Armstrong, C). He saw no reason to dissent from any of his rulings. Mr Armstrong had acted very properly in the circumstances.

He hoped every MP would recognise the courtesies and conventions of the House, which had been applied in this particular case. These were not matters for the Chair but matters for the conduct of MPs.

In the debate last night, Mr Fox said that the suspension of Mr Honeyford had become a national issue.

He said Mr Honeyford had been suspended after writing in the small circulation magazine *Salisbury Review* that white children at Drummum Middle School were being disadvantaged because they were in the minority.

These remarks were a breath of fresh air in the polluted area of race relations. Mr Honeyford was not a racist and had the support of the governors, staff and most of the parents.

Mr Madden attempted to speak but Mr Armstrong ruled him out. Mr Madden said according to the procedures of the House it was up to Mr Fox whether Mr Madden could speak or not.

Mr Madden and Mr Bennett, raised points of order and Mr Dunn said left with one minute to speak in the debate which was limited to half-an-hour. He said it was not his task to interpret events in Bradford. Mr Madden repeatedly said: It is a scandal.

## Teachers' action deplored

### SCOTLAND

It was deplorable that Scottish teachers belonging to the Educational Institute for Scotland were refusing to adopt his suggestion to discuss their real and deeply felt grievances through the normal negotiating procedure, the joint negotiating committee, Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, said during Commons questions.

Children's education was suffering during the current dispute he said.

He recalled that the general secretary of the EIS was elected when he represented one of the Scottish Joint Negotiating Committee for Teaching Staff in School Education in January and February but added that he had not been elected subsequently. But he was prepared to talk to the EIS at any time.

Sir Hector Monro (Dumfries, C) said that by holding out for an independent inquiry the teachers had provoked and prolonged the strike.

Would Mr Younger make one more effort to bring them together round a table under the proper negotiating procedures so that further hindrance of children's education could be ended and children's examinations would not be put in difficulty?

Mr Younger agreed. The EIS was the only teaching union holding out against its grievances being properly considered by the joint negotiating committee. I am (he added) only too willing to help.

Mr Gavin Strang (Edinburgh East, Lab) believed the teachers had an overwhelming case for an independent review. All the evidence recently showed that the teachers were hardening in their determination to advance their demands.

The maximum damage being done to children's education could not go on. The responsibility was on Mr Younger to come forward with a major new initiative.

Mr Younger said that during this unnecessary and protracted dispute he had always made clear that he did not deny that the teachers had grievances and that he was willing to meet the one union had refused.

Mr Harry Ewing, an Opposition spokesman on Scotland, does he support the Tory-controlled Lothian Regional Council in setting up emergency teaching centres and paying teachers £20 a day to work in them? If he approves of that, why does he not make the same offer as a basis for beginning to negotiate with the EIS?

Mr Younger: I have not made such a specific offer as that. I have offered and the EIS has refused too much, that if teachers would produce with their negotiating committee a package covering pay and conditions of service I would be prepared to receive such a package and to discuss it sympathetically.

It is the Lothian committee's responsibility to deal with the education of children in their area. If they have taken sensible decisions to help children who are deprived of education because of strike action, it is their right to do so.

## Easing the burdens on industry

The flood of investment into Scotland over the last two years showed clearly that easing the burdens on industry as the Government had done was having very effective results.

Mr Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, said during Commons exchanges on unemployment.

## Political prosecutions rejected

### SCOTLAND

Mr George Fookes (Plymouth) said that while he warmly welcomed Mr Heseltine's confirmation that there was a long-term future for the dockyards, he viewed with dismay the short-term position that involved the shedding of jobs. He asked what steps would be taken to alleviate the situation for those whose job prospects were reduced.

Mr Heseltine replied that the unions were helping the first meeting today with local management representatives to look at the broad outline. The present job levels could probably be reduced by 15 per cent, that was about 2,000

Mr Younger acknowledged that although the total numbers unemployed in Scotland fell in March, the seasonal trend was less favourable.

Scotland the said is expected to share in the 3.5 per cent growth forecast for the United Kingdom economy this year, and it is our success in producing and selling which will result in more employment opportunities.

Mr Bruce Millan (Glasgow, Govan, Lab), who began the exchanges, said unemployment in parts of his constituency was now 35 per cent. Similar figures could be quoted for other parts of Scotland.

It is offensive (he went on) for Mr Younger to describe a Budget which will do nothing for Scottish employment as tailor made for Scotland.

If Mr Younger cannot promise us the major changes in economic policy that are required, what is he doing about particular threats to jobs in Scotland at the moment? What is he doing to try and save 1,000 jobs at the British Rail workshops in Springfield and the jobs in Rowntree Mackintosh's factory at Edinburgh which is transferring to England?

Mr Younger: I share Mr Millan's concern about local levels of unemployment in his constituency. That is why his constituency in the centre of Glasgow has still got the highest, with the highest rates of regional unemployment.

I was delighted at the winning by the Govan yard of a £40 million order for a North Sea passenger-freight ferry. It will be the biggest passenger ship built on the Clyde for 12 years.

It is difficult to keep businesses competitive when governments keep putting more impositions on them, such as Mr Millan's decision to put on a national insurance surcharge. (Mr Millan was Secretary of State for Scotland in the last Labour Government.)

Earlier, Mr Allan Stewart, Under Secretary of State for Scotland, said employment in Scotland was rising, business prospects were good and it did not one any good whatsoever to talk Scotland down.

## Sympathy for Princess

### SCOTLAND

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab) attacked newspapers which he said in the Commons, had acted disgracefully towards Princess Margaret after the revelation that her father had been a member of the SS.

During the report stage of the Interpretation of Communications Bill, Mr Heffer said he did not know what the Princess's politics were, though he was sure they were not his and were opposed to everything he believed in.

But nobody (he declared to cheers from all sides of the House) can be responsible for their parents.

Some papers, including that so-called *Labour* and *Mirror*, have been acting disgracefully.

It was important that somebody, particularly on the Labour Party left, should make it quite clear that they were not against people because their parents might have been Nazis, or in this country, Moslems or anything else.

## Committee needed to cut bureaucracy

### SCOTLAND

Lady Seaton, leader of the Liberal peers, said not only was there a need for a re-examination of regulations but also a need to see they were properly understood.

There was a damaging and totally unnecessary increase in bureaucracy which was not only a waste of money but also a hindrance to the work of departments to issue correct information about "how things" operated and see that it got to the people who needed to use it.

Lord Young of Gifford, Minister without Portfolio, said he was interested in the idea of a standing select committee to examine regulations and he would give it close consideration.

No one would argue with the sentiments of the debate, but the vital element in changing the climate to create jobs and wealth, was freedom - freedom for businesses to "proliferate and expand, freedom to react quickly to fresh opportunities without the dead hand of bureaucracy.

All too often Governments had not realized that and instead of giving enterprise room to flourish, had smothered it.

In the next few months he would be looking at ways of reducing the burden of Government requirements on business and aim to make progress in reducing the cost to industry of complying with Government rules.

To be most effective, there would have to be wide consultations and this would lead to decisive progress in the task of creating a climate in which enterprise could flourish. The Government intended to make the most of that opportunity.

Lord Vasson (C) in a maiden speech, said that in our sophisticated society many jobs were isolated from the harsh wind of international competition and the realities that inexorably confronted a trading nation.

As a result, many workers had become detached from the wealth creation process leading to a misunderstanding of it. The quest for job security in the long-term led often to job destruction.

Lord Henderson of Brompton (Ind) said the good intentions of the 1944 Disabled Persons Employment Act had not been fulfilled. The measure, which established a register of disabled people and put a duty of firms employing 20 or more workers to employ a quota of registered disabled persons, had proved to be ineffective partly because it had no teeth and could not be enforced.

### Divisonal Court

## Contents of genuine certificates cannot be challenged in court

**Regina v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Ex parte Trawnik and Another**  
Before Mr Justice Forbes and Mr Justice Kennedy  
(Judgment delivered April 16)

Certificates issued by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs under section 40(3)(a) of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947 and section 21 of the State Immunity Act 1978 were reviewable in the courts only if they constituted a nullity, in that they were not genuine certificates, or if, on their face, they had been issued outside the scope of the relevant statutory power.

The contents of such certificates were conclusive of the matters stated in them and, in so far as they related to questions of the recognition of foreign states, were matters of public law and not subject to judicial review.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved judgment, answering preliminary issues of law ordered to be tried in respect of Guntar Trawnik's and Louise Reimold's applications for judicial review of three certificates issued by the secretary of state on November 3 and continuing until November 1, 1984, on the ground, *inter alia*, that in issuing the certificates the secretary of state had taken into account irrelevant considerations and ignored relevant considerations.

Mr John MacDonald, QC and Mr Owen Davies for the applicants; Mr John Mummery for the secretary of state.

MR JUSTICE FORBES said that there was a proposal to establish a machine-gun range at Gatow in West Berlin for use by British troops stationed there. The applicants were German citizens living near the site who were afraid that they would suffer mistreatment as a result of the noise of the firing.

Deafened in their efforts to raise the matter in the courts of their own country, the applicants issued a writ in the Chancery Division claiming, in a *quia timet* action, declarations against the Ministry of Defence on the grounds of anticipated nuisance.

The Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, issued a certificate under section 40(3)(a) of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947, conclusive as to the matter referred to in section 40(3)(a) of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947, that the applicants' claims for damages in respect of the action were outside the scope of her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

Section 40(3)(a) provided that any such certificate was conclusive, for the purposes of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947, as to any matter so certified.

On April 16, 1984, Sir Robert Megarry, Vice-Chancellor, struck out the action against the Ministry of Defence but gave leave to add the Attorney General and Major General Gordon Lennox, the British military commandant in Berlin, as defendants. See *Trawnik v Ministry of Defence* (The Times April 19, 1984).

Subsequently, the Court of Appeal allowed the Attorney General's appeal against the joinder order. See *Trawnik v Lennox and Another* (The Times December 14, 1984). Major General Lennox's application that the proceedings against him be set aside had yet to be determined.

Meanwhile, the secretary of state issued a further certificate under section 21 of the State Immunity Act 1978 certifying that there was a state for the purposes of section 1 of the 1978 Act and that the persons to be regarded for the purposes of Part I of the Act as the government of Germany included members of the Allied Commandantura of Berlin, including Major General Lennox.

Section 21 of the 1978 Act provided that such a certificate was conclusive evidence on any question whether any country was a state for the purposes of Part I of the Act.

A third certificate was issued by the secretary of state under section 40(3)(a) of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947, in identical terms to the first save that the action to which the certificate related was the Chancery action omitting the Ministry of Defence and adding the Attorney General and Major General Lennox as defendants.

The issue in respect of the Crown Proceedings Act certificates was whether the fact that the certifi-

Since, at common law, the section 21 certificate was conclusive evidence of the facts stated in it, no evidence could be called to rebut or contradict it. It was to be remembered that the only arbiters of the truth of a notorious fact lying within the sphere of foreign relations was the secretary of state when he gave the certificate.

Thus at common law the statements contained in the section 21 certificate could not be contradicted by evidence. The certificate was unreviewable in its terms and there was no ambiguity or lacuna requiring further recourse to the secretary of state.

The same difficulties confronted the applicants in their challenge to the section 40(3)(a) certificates. The difference in wording between the sections was immaterial.

Thus, even if the certificates were reviewable, the necessary factual basis on which review could proceed could not be laid by the applicants because the facts were concluded by the statements in the certificates.

It was wrong, were the certificates reviewable, that Parliament had circumscribed the area of inquiry to be entrusted to a body, being an arm into which the courts were precluded by Parliament from intruding, that body was not, because it included the Attorney General, beyond that entrusted to it. If it did so it acted without authority and the courts would interfere. See *Ansinnik Ltd v Foreign Compensation Commission* (1969) 2 AC 147, 169H, 174B, 198B and 207D.

It was for the courts to decide the true construction of the statute which defined the area of such a body's authority.

To that extent the certificates were reviewable by the courts.

A court was entitled to look at a certificate to see whether, in the first place, it was what it purported to be, namely a certificate issued by the secretary of state or someone authorized to issue it on his behalf. If there was evidence to show that it was not a genuine certificate at all, the court could pronounce it null and void. A complete nullity and the court could pronounce it null and void.

Neither of the statutory provisions, nor any principle of common law, prevented the admission of evidence in its terms and the court could pronounce it null and void. The certificate itself.

Furthermore, the court could compare the matter which was certified with the words of the statute to see whether or not the certificate, on its face, fell within the sphere allotted by the statute to the secretary of state.

But neither the content of the certificate nor the path by which the secretary of state arrived at that content were reviewable on Wednesbury principles (1948) 1 KB 223. The court could not inquire into the truth of the contents of a certificate which was wholly ineffective. Whatever the result of the review, the effectiveness of the certificate in the substantive proceedings would be unimpaired and the court in the instant case would not embark on such a barren exercise.

Although the Divisional Court would normally review the exercise of a statutory power by a minister, it would not use the *Ansinnik* principle to trespass on the royal prerogative.

That did not mean that in a proper case the Divisional Court might not be prepared to consider whether a certificate given under either Act was indeed a certificate, or whether it was a nullity, but only if it was clear that the certificate was what it purported to be, as in the instant case, namely a certificate given by the appropriate person under the relevant Act, dealing with the appropriate matter, and that the appropriate person to certify was an end. If there was an abuse of power in its issue, the court could not give redress.

Thus, the preliminary issues of law had to be answered in the affirmative in favour of the Secretary of State's favour.

Solicitors: Selfridges & Co; Treasury Solicitor.

### Queen's Bench Division

## Showing passport no false representation

**Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Adde**  
Before Mr Justice Hodgson  
(Judgment delivered April 17)

The mere presentation of a passport, which contained a fraudulently obtained stamp for indefinite leave to enter, to an entry clearance officer could not, without more, amount to the making of a false representation.

Mr Justice Hodgson so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division allowing an application for certiorari to quash the decision of an immigration officer on July 22, 1983, authorizing the detention of the applicant, Kwame Adde, as an illegal immigrant under paragraph 16(2) of Schedule 2 to the Immigration Act 1971.

Mr Ian Macdonald for the applicant; Mr Christopher Symons for the secretary of state.

MR JUSTICE HODGSON said that the applicant entered the United Kingdom as a visitor for six weeks in June 1976, overstayed and obtained a new passport from the Ghanaian High Commission, and applied to the Home Office in November 1980 for a further passport. He was refused entry on the grounds of his previous stay by virtue of his marriage to a UK citizen.

Variation was refused and notice of intention to deport was sent to him in December 1981. No deportation was made, and the applicant at a later date went abroad for a few days. On his return he obtained a further passport, which was made, as he contended, by making false representations to the immigration officer, contrary to section 26(1)(c) of the 1971 Act.

Clearly, the officer would have refused entry if he had known the truth. However, the passport was issued with a genuine stamp, and the applicant was now an illegal entrant, nothing further was done, and there was no doubt as to where he lived or worked.

In January/February 1983 the applicant went to Ghana and told the officer on his return, truthfully, that he had been in England for seven years.

His Lordship said that whether a person who had obtained leave by a passport which contained a fraudulently obtained stamp for indefinite leave to enter, to an entry clearance officer could not, without more, amount to the making of a false representation.

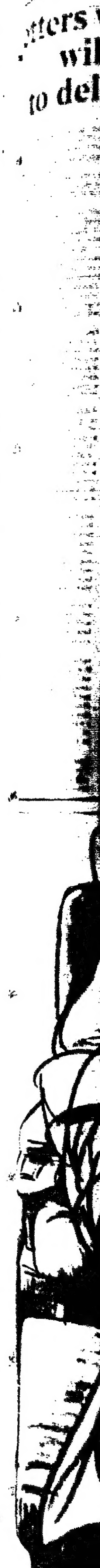
The leave to enter, endorsed on the passport was not a nullity and the authorities had taken no steps to secure the applicant's summary removal under Schedule 2 to the 1971 Act.

Parliament, seemed to have accepted the difficulties involved in categorizing such conduct as a false representation, since the provisions for the punishment of the use of false documents in section 26(1)(c) of the 1971 Act.

His Lordship said that to deal with the important concept of illegal entry merely by including it in the definition of "entrant" in section 33(1) and then to make provision for the removal of the entrant by a procedure different from deportation, had led to great difficulties, particularly since the decision of *Khawaja* as to the burden of proof in illegal entrant cases.

In very few cases was judicial review a satisfactory way to test whether it had been established that entry was illegal; if illegal entry was added as a fourth "reason for deportation" to those contained in section 33, then the factual question of whether the entry could then be tested on appeal to an adjudicator.

Solicitors: B. M. Birnberg & Co; Treasury Solicitor.





## Letters without a postcode will take longer to deliver from today

By Colin Hughes

Letters which fail to use the full post-code will, for the first time nationally from today, find their passage through the postal system slowed down.

Today's change is the first of two phases which are crucial to increasing Post Office efficiency and profitability.

The greatest impact of the changes in a system where personal mail has declined to one-seventh of the market, will be on bulk and business post.

Phase one, starting national operation today, brings into action all 68 of the 81 projected new district sorting centres, which will use automatic sorting machines for all stages of postal distribution for the first time.

Phase two, which will start nationally in about two years, but is already running at the Mount Pleasant sorting office in London, will almost eliminate human sorting for more than half of the 45 million items a day passing through the Post Office.

Under the first phase, which has already been running at some centres, mail will be gathered into centralized sorting offices, bypassing the old sub-offices, direct from the postbox.

Each item will be fed on to a conveyor-belt passing before a sorting operator, who reads the post-code and translates it into phosphor dots which are punched on to the envelope.

If the sender has included the full code two rows of dots will be punched on to the right-hand side of the envelope. The bottom row refers to the outward part of the code (see insert), the top one to the inward part: the first and second parts of the post-code respectively.

Automatic sorting machines can read either row. At the collection office one machine will read the bottom row, and pack it for road or rail delivery to the right town.

Once it arrives another automatic sorting machine will read the top row, where the crucial second part of the post-code comes into play. That machine will sort the letter into a pile which corresponds directly with the postman's round: the postman "cat" in effect, pick up that pile, put it in a postbag, and set off.

At Mount Pleasant sorting office in London, the country's largest, the Post Office now has union agreement to use the next

The complete British post-code, is internationally unusual in narrowing addresses down to tiny areas. On average, the same set of letters and digits is specific to only 15 homes.

Most countries use only "outward" codes, a line of numbers which merely tell the collecting office which town or city distribution centre the mail needs to be sent to.

That function is performed by the first part of the British code. In the code N16 9NR, in London, for example, the initial "N" means that the address is covered by London's northern district sorting office. The number 16 is simply a sub-division, usually where postmen used to pick up sacks for delivery (and often still do). They are based on the former postal districts which covered, say, the parishes which make up a town.

That first block has been in full use since the post-code was introduced. It is the second "inward" part of the code that distinguishes the British system, and is the motor which drives the new sorting technology.

The 9NR in the above

example, an incidentally arbitrary arrangement of letters and digits, defines the smallest areas into which a postman's walk can be broken down. A large building receiving mountains of mail has its own post-code, and a close with only three houses would have one code to itself, whereas 20 or 30 houses on a long street might all share a code.

The small areas are valuable because they mean that management can easily rearrange a postman's round without altering the codes.

At present 50 per cent of all mailing is fully post-coded by the sender, although the figure is far worse for personal mail than for businesses. The latter can obtain free post-code directories, which fill a mail of shelves with all 1.5 million codes, covering the United Kingdom's 22 million addresses.

Others have several ways of finding out their own and other people's codes. Libraries and main post offices keep the directories. Thomson's local directories cover 90 per cent of codes, and Post Office Service listed in Yellow Pages answer specific requests.

centres like Driver and Vehicle Licensing at Swansea, are enormous.

If the Post Office can persuade them to use accurate postcoding on everything their efficiency will be hugely increased.

Since Post Office profits are rising, from £27.1 million in 1981 to £116.9 million last year, largely because of the growth in business mailing enabled by computerization, the efficiency boost is essential for maintaining growth.

### LETTERS HANDLED

Social mail, personal letters	14
Business mail, bills, etc.	50
Direct mailing, mail shots	19
Miscellaneous	24
First class	47
Second class	53

### POST OFFICE PROFITS

1981	£27.1 million
1982	£38 million
1983	£101.3 million
1984	£116.9 million



Memorial clean-up: Work started yesterday on the renovation of the 113-year-old Albert Memorial in Kensington Gardens, London. Ornamental finials have been removed from arches above John Foley's statue of the Prince Consort (Photograph: John Manning).

## Isle of Wight landslip worry

Part of the Isle of Wight faces probably the worst urban landslide danger in Britain, a conference on the island was told yesterday.

Professor John Hutchinson, professor of engineering geology at Imperial College, London, said that Britain lagged far behind other countries in mapping landslide zones.

Professor Hutchinson, who is Britain's foremost authority on landslides, said that while inland areas of Britain might be "geologically quiet", coastal areas, experiencing erosion and prone to landslip, needed a warning system.

He was speaking at a two-day conference on problems associated with the coastline of the Isle of Wight.

presented probably the largest urban landslide problem in Britain, he said.

A period of above average rainfall, related to ground water pressures, could trigger a big landslide at Ventnor, (population 6,000), as occurred after an exceptionally wet year in 1960-61.

He hoped to carry out further studies of Ventnor landslides.

## Battle for the counties

## Tories campaign on low-rate platform

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Rate rises not rate reform will be at the heart of the Conservative campaign in the elections on May 2 for all Welsh and most English county councils.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, said yesterday that it was not clear whether the Government would legislate to reform the rates before or after the general election.

"We do not regard the present system as having more than a limited life," he told a campaign press conference in London. "It remains perfectly possible that we will be able to legislate this side of a general election."

Mr Lewis Moss, leader of the majority Conservative group in the Association of County Councils and a former leader of Berkshire County Council, said: "It would be quite premature for us to discuss this issue as candidates on the doorstep."

Ministers made it clear yesterday that the publicity engendered by the Chequers "summit" on the Prime Minister's commitment to rate reform would not be carried forward into their shire campaign.

Candidates would concentrate on the issues of rate rises and the value for money provided by majority groups of different parties.

Mr Jenkin said that rates charged by Conservative county councils had risen by 31 per cent since the last elections four years ago.

The comparable increase for Labour-controlled authorities was 62 per cent, he said. Increases in councils where Alliance councillors had a majority or held the balance of power were half way between the Conservative and Labour figures.

The workforce of Labour-controlled Derbyshire County Council had risen by 2 per cent since the last elections, while

that in Conservative-led Lincolnshire had dropped 5 per cent.

Mr Moss said that other parties would base their campaigns on claims that the Conservatives had made damaging cuts in jobs and services. But Labour and Alliance candidates used the word "cuts" to cover "desirable projects of growth which it is not possible to finance immediately."

Mr John Gummer, Conservative party chairman, made it clear that the party would portray the Alliance as a pale version of Labour.

Mr Jenkin made a glancing reference to Conservative complaints, suppressed for the shire election campaign, about the injustice of the Government's system of awarding rate support grant. "The Government is anxious to get rid of the target and penalty regime as soon as may be. We recognize the rough justice of the target system."

\* County rate rises since last elections

Tory control		
Bucks	26 Lincs	25
Devon	36 Norfolk	33
Dorset	25 N York	33
E Sussex	30 Oxon	39
Essex	38 Somerset	27
Hants	29 Suffolk	26
Herts		
Worce	30 Surrey	37
Wilt	36 W Sussex	31
Wilt	30 Wilt	36
Labour control		
Avon	58 Beds	31
Cleves	50 Berks	35
Cumbria	34 Cambs	27
Derbys	67 Ches	41
Durham	37 Glos	27
Humber	60 Leics	47
Lancs	31 Nthm	31
Nthm	40 Shrop	27
Notts	71 Warwicks	30
Staffs	50	
Other control		
Cornwall (ind)	34	
Lo.W (ind)	38	

Source: Dep of Environment

## Games pirates' promise

Rival computer software manufacturers are to unite in an attempt to seek out and take action against pirates who are costing them millions of pounds a year in lost revenues, the High Court was told yesterday.

But Mr Thomas Beazley, acting for five computer companies, told the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Robert Megarry, that the companies would not be taking any further action against four

men after they promised not to pirate again.

The four accused, Wayne Dransfield, Kevin Priestley, Greg Nicholson, and Lee Dunlin, all from Hull, admitted the unauthorized copying and promised that they would obey the judge's order not to do it again. The five companies agreed to drop their claims for damages or costs.



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## Discovery crew fails in despairing attempt to revive drifting satellite

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The crew of the space shuttle Discovery yesterday failed to activate a disabled US Navy communications satellite despite valiant efforts.

Dr Rhea Seddon, the only woman in the crew of seven, several times used the shuttle's Canadian-built 50ft robot arm to try to switch a lever on the side of the slowly-spinning satellite.

But she could not push it far enough to bring to life the powerless craft and put it into a permanent orbit 22,300 miles above the earth.

"You did everything you possibly could - great job," Mission Control told the crew, after ordering Discovery to move away from the satellite.

A NASA official said the

Discovery was expected to return to the Kennedy Space Centre at Cape Canaveral tomorrow.

The Discovery carried two communications satellites. One for use by Canada, was deployed a few hours after take-off of the space shuttle five-day mission last Friday. The second failed to go into orbit when deployed on Saturday.

The crew yesterday spent more than three hours manoeuvring the shuttle close to the satellite for the bold salvage attempt.

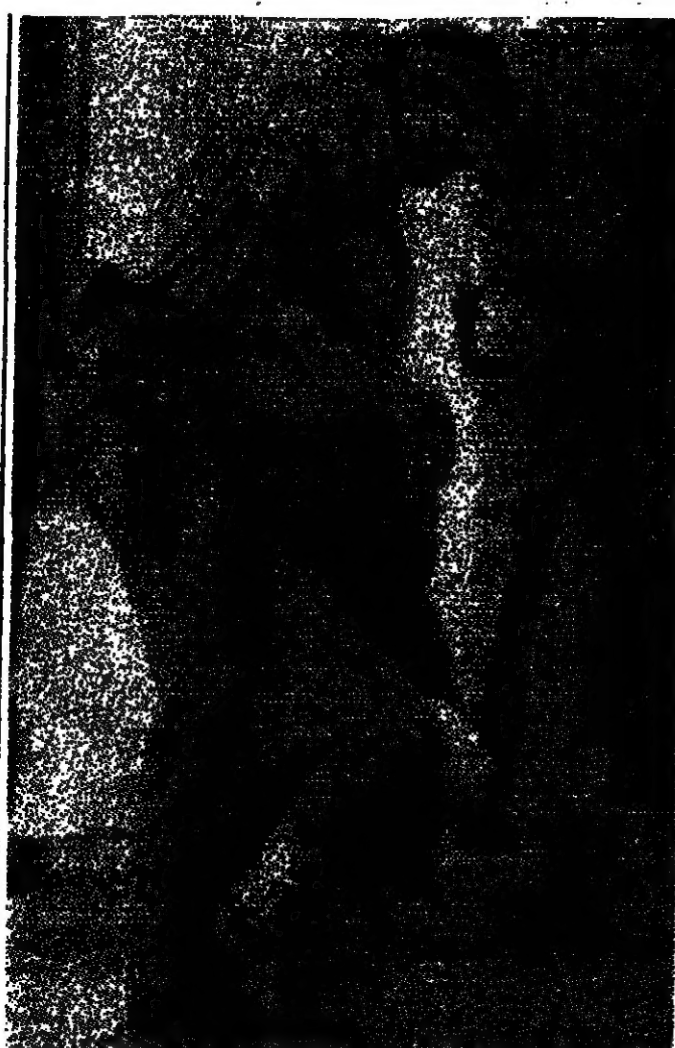
At the end of the shuttle's robot arm was makeshift "fly swatter" fingers attached by astronaut Jeffrey Hoffman and David Griggs during an unheated space walk on Tuesday.

Using a television camera at the end of the arm, Dr Seddon, a physician, pressed the floppy "fingers" against the satellite and tried to flip the small switch. But the delicate operation did not work.

The satellite, called Syncom, should have activated itself on deployment but remains lifeless.

Despite the failure to reactivate the satellite, the Discovery's mission has been a success.

It has made history by taking Senator Jake Garn into space, the first politician to do so. The Republican senator from Utah, has been the subject of medical experiments to test the body's response to weightlessness and nausea in space.



## Campus rally arrests

Police removing a demonstrator at Berkeley during protests by more than 2,000 people against the University of California's investment in companies

doing business in South Africa. Despite 159 arrests, demonstrators said they would continue blockading buildings on the campus (Ivor Davis writes).

## Pretoria's last man pulls out of Angola

Oshikango, Namibia (Reuters) - South Africa yesterday formally withdrew its last soldiers from Angola under a pullout announced on Monday which analysts said was part of a new push for Namibian independence.

A column of about 300 soldiers and 100 vehicles pulled back across the border into Namibia and were received by the South African Defence Force chief General Constand Viljoen.

About 60 South African soldiers remained at Caluque in Angola. Military sources said they were helping to guard the

Ruacana-Calueque hydro-electric scheme.

General Viljoen said that a South African-Angolan joint commission which has been monitoring the withdrawal would be wound up within 30 days.

In Cape Town yesterday, President Botha of South Africa met internal Namibian political parties to discuss their plan for an interim government. The parties, grouped into the Multi-Party Conference which excludes Swapo, are suggesting that they should form an interim government themselves and draw up a constitution

## 10-year undeclared war

South Africa has been fighting an "undeclared war" in Angola since 1975 in support of Unita and the FNLA against the pro-marxist MPLA. Troops penetrated to within sight of Luanda, the capital, but retreated when the US failed to deliver its expected support.

The main events were: Dec 1980: President Eduardo Dos Santos of Angola accuses South Africa of killing 2,000 civilians and inflicting £2.500 million worth of damage in three years.

May 1981: President Reagan wins reversal of a congressional ban on covert US intelligence operations in Angola by promising to aid Namibian independence.

July 1981: The Soviet Union warns the US that Angola's allies will protect its independence.

Sept 1981: South Africa

launches "Operation Protea" with 15,000 troops

Dec 1981: The Western contact group - the US, Britain, West Germany, France and Canada - established and Dr Chester Crocker, US Under-Secretary of State for African Affairs, begins shuttle diplomacy.

Feb 1982: The "Linkage" issue emerges. Angola and Cuba say that Cuban troops in Angola will be withdrawn once all signs of possible South African invasions cease.

Dec 1982: South African and Angolan ministers meet. Cuban military strength in Angola is reported to have been increased.

Aug 1983: President Dos Santos claims South African air raids increasing.

Feb 1984: South Africa and Angola agree in Lusaka to establish joint monitoring commission to oversee withdrawal of South African troops

## French take first step in Star Wars technology

Paris - France yesterday announced a project dubbed Eureka to create a "technological Europe" (Diana Geddes writes).

It will involve research into lasers, particle beams, and large computers, and has clear implications for eventual European participation in President Reagan's Star Wars initiative.

M Roland Dumas, France's Foreign Minister, is to start a tour of EEC capitals next week to explain the project and to begin the process of consultation. London has been informed by letter of the plan already jointly agreed between France and West Germany.

Deadline dropped, page 8

## Identity riddle of IRA suspect

The Hague (AP) - The Dutch Supreme Court has approved the extradition of James McCann, a suspected IRA terrorist, to West Germany, where he is wanted for alleged involvement in a bomb attack on Nato.

But the man in custody denies he is McCann and the Justice Ministry will make the final decision.

## Delon son held

Paris (AFP) - Anthony Delon, 20-year-old son of the film actor Alain Delon, was held by police investigating the attempted murder here of M David Torjman, managing director of the younger Delon's fashion firm.

## Nuclear ban

Reykjavik (Reuters) - Iceland's decision to bar nuclear-armed ships from its ports will have little effect on Nato planning, Western diplomats said. They said the ban meant Iceland was following Norway's line within the alliance.

## Papal ring lost

Rome (AP) - The Pope briefly lost his papal gold ring while riding through St Peter's Square during his weekly general audience. Security men found it under a crowd control barrier.

## 4lb herring

Stockholm (Reuters) - A 22-in herring, believed to be the biggest on record, has been caught off the southern Swedish coast. The national news agency said it weighed nearly 4lb.

## Jet crash pilots go on trial

Geneva (Reuters) - The trial opened here yesterday of two pilots who were at the controls of a Swiss charter jet which crashed into the sea near Madeira in 1977, killing 36 people.

The two Swiss nationals, named only as Gilbert N, aged 46, and Nicolas M, aged 43, face manslaughter and grievous bodily harm charges brought by the Geneva public prosecutor last year.

They are also accused of breaking flight regulations, including one calling for night landings to be made only by pilots acquainted with Madeira airport.

The Caravelle jet, with 57 people on board, crashed shortly before it was to land. Defence lawyers have blamed the crash on false information from the control tower and faults in the plane's

## South Sudanese put demands to junta

From Gill Lusk, Khartoum

A grouping of politicians from Sudan's strife-torn south, who expect to provide three ministers for the country's new Government, yesterday made their first official public appearance.

At their first press conference, the Southern Sudanese Political Association put forward a nine-point programme. The main demands were the lifting of Islamic law and reunification of the south into one region as stipulated under the 1972 Addis Ababa agreement that ended the 17-year civil war.

However, the association failed to make any announcement on participation in the Government which representatives of professional associations, trade unions and political parties have been painfully putting together in the 11 days since the overthrow of former President Nimeiry.

Nor did the association put forward detailed proposals for the south. The proposal to lift the harsh and personal brand of Sharia law, that General Nimeiry imposed in September 1983, similar to one put forward by parties from the mainly Muslim north, including

the National Unionist Party. But in the predominantly pagan and Christian south, Sharia provided a major impetus for the guerrilla war being waged by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army.

The issue of the division of the south into three regions, implemented in June 1983, also contributed to the rebellion, while bitterly dividing southerners. Now however, politicians from both sides have joined together in the association to demand a unified south.

Many claim that the association has no mandate to speak for the south or to take part in the new central Government.

The three members whose names have been put forward for ministerial positions are, like many association personalities, all leading politicians and former regional ministers. Mr Samuel Aru Bol, provisional chairman of the association, Mr Peter Gatkuoth and Mr Albino.

● LONDON: The new Sudanese Government has informed Britain that it intends to replace its ambassador in London, the Foreign Office said last night (Henry Stanhope writes)

## Craxi sets his targets for European union

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg

An intensive round of meetings to discuss European union "at the highest political level" is being planned by Signor Bettino Craxi, the Italian Prime Minister and current President of the European Council.

Signor Craxi made his announcement in Strasbourg yesterday when he "reported" to the European Parliament on the last European summit. "Before the Milan summit in June all EEC heads of government will be asked how much they are prepared to support some kind of European union."

The timetable has not yet been drawn up but Signor Craxi means to start his "confessionals" in the margins of the world economic summit in Bonn early next month.

The European Parliament set European union rolling again last year, when it passed a resolution containing a new draft treaty which would all but do away with national vetoes. Yesterday it was clear that any idea has strong support from many British Conservatives. But British Labour members



Signor Craxi: First meetings in Bonn

were solidly opposed to any extension of the EEC.

Mrs Thatcher will be a main target for Signor Craxi's meetings, since Britain is seen as the major opponent to the European union, the Italian Prime Minister favours.

● CASH FOR FILMS: EEC money should be made available to help to finance community cinema and television films, the European Commission agreed in Strasbourg yesterday, suggesting that any film jointly produced by companies from at least three EEC countries should be eligible for a grant

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## FORD TRANSIT

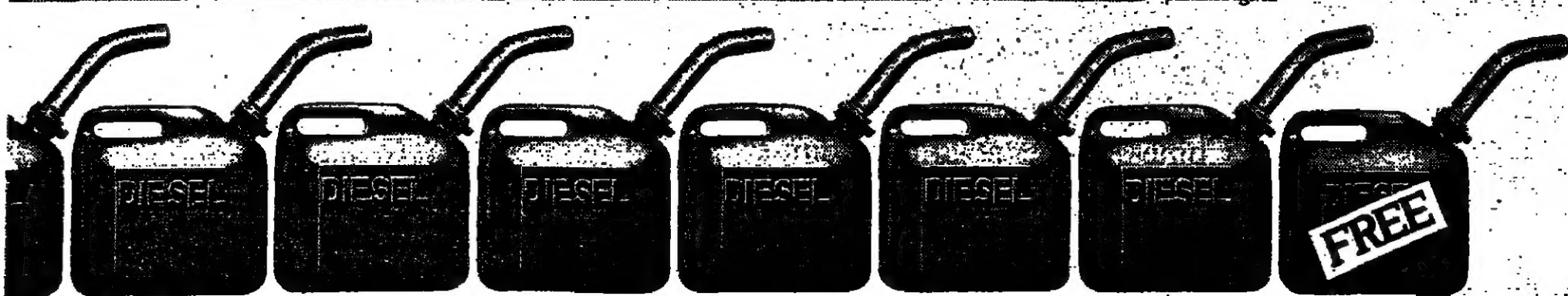


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\*Fuel economy figures are an average of the ELA urban cycle and a constant 56 mph and both performance and fuel economy are measured and calculated by Ford Motor Company Limited in line with EEC procedure 89/1268/EEC, of manufacturers published figures.



### DESIGN



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US and Nicaragua war of words

# Ortega says the 'mercenaries' will be defeated

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

President Daniel Ortega has told the Nicaraguan nation that his Sandinista Government will never be coerced by the United States into negotiating with counter-revolutionary forces. In answer to questions from an audience of workers during a television "Face the People" meeting, he dismissed President Reagan's Nicaraguan peace plan as "an ultimatum which proposes that we go down on our knees so that they can put in the knife. In this case, we prefer to die on our feet."

Mr Reagan's plan links a call on the Sandinistas to negotiate new elections with the anti-government contras with a promise to the US Congress that, if it approves the President's request for \$14 million (£11 million) of renewed covert aid, the money will not be spent on arms unless the government here fails to make significant concessions within 60 days of the start of talks.

President Ortega said the contras were fighters who had become instruments of US policy against Nicaragua. "These mercenary forces have no future, they will be defeated," he said. Mr Reagan wanted a ceasefire because they were being pushed back into their bases in Honduras and needed a breathing space.

It was not the money which was important, he said, since the Central Intelligence Agency had continued to channel more than \$14 million to the contras despite the suspension of covert aid by Congress last June. What was really at stake was Congressional approval of President Reagan's political conduct.

Senor Ortega said he had told

American senators and congressmen who had visited Nicaragua recently that a vote against renewed aid would open the possibility of a negotiated solution to the conflict, a vote in favour would only lead to the deaths of more innocent people.

Privately, the Nicaraguan president has told foreign journalists that he would feel "morally obliged" to make new peace concessions if Congress rejected the aid request.

However, in an interview, the Foreign Minister, Father Miguel D'Escoto, ruled out the possibility that these might include opening negotiations with the contras. "What is the function of talking to hirelings who can be replaced by those who hire them?" he said.

Nicaragua has asked the US to reopen the talks in Mexico, which were abruptly broken off in January.

Senor Ortega and Father D'Escoto have met six congressional delegations which have visited Managua since Easter including influential members of the intelligence sub-committees of both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Among them was Admiral Stansfield Turner, director of the CIA in the Carter Administration, who synthesized some of the concerns troubling Congressmen.

"Covert action is an instrument of foreign policy, not an instrument of intelligence. Intelligence is collecting information, covert action is trying to influence events secretly. In a democracy such as ours, when foreign policy is carried out secretly, there are risks," he said.

## Leak report will stir up Congress

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Although beset by congressional opposition, President Reagan is seeking the expansion and strengthening of the 15,000-strong guerrilla army fighting the Sandinista government of Nicaragua.

Direct United States military force, although ruled out for now, is "an eventual option," according to a confidential White House report leaked yesterday.

The idea of direct American intervention in Nicaragua has never seriously been mooted by the White House. Congress, in any case, would almost certainly vigorously oppose an intervention under existing circumstances.

The language of the White House document, headed "top secret" and distributed to selected congressmen, seems tailored to raise the temperature of the debate.

The report, headed "US Support for the Democratic Resistance Movement in Nicaragua," said the President's objective in seeking a resumption of US aid to the Honduras-based guerrillas was to create real pressure on the government of Nicaragua.

It spoke in terms of creating a guerrilla force in the north, obviously meaning Honduras - of 20,000 to 25,000, and a force in the south on the Costa Rican border of 5,000. The northern force is now estimated at 15,000 men. The southern force is about 5,000.

The White House report, leaked to the New York Times, was sent to two congressional committees on April 3. It argued that the alternative to assisting the rebels was an expensive and doubtful strategy of containment.

"The containment approach is obviously deficient in that it is passive and does not contemplate changes in Sandinista behaviour," it stated. "Only major direct pressure can induce change."

President Reagan has been advised by Republican leaders



Into battle: Miskito Indian guerrillas take to the water in their fight against the Nicaragua Government. The Miskitos, striving to preserve their traditional lifestyle, operate from bases in Honduras and Costa Rica.

"The containment approach is obviously deficient in that it is passive and does not contemplate changes in Sandinista behaviour," it stated. "Only major direct pressure can induce change."

President Reagan has been advised by Republican leaders

## Weizman confident of prospects for Egypt-Israel summit

From Our Correspondent, Cairo

Mr Ezer Weizman, whose visit to Cairo caused an Israeli Cabinet crisis, is optimistic about prospects for an early summit meeting between President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister.

He said after discussions yesterday with the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Mr Esmat Abdel-Maguid: "I am... now more optimistic about the future."

Mr Weizman, Israeli Minister without Portfolio, spoke as Mr Richard Murphy, the US deputy secretary for Middle East affairs, flew into Cairo to discuss a possible US role in an Egyptian initiative calling for direct talks between Israel and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation on the Palestinian problem. He has been in Jerusalem recently.

Mr Weizman's discussions in Egypt appear to have made Israeli officials confident enough to predict a summit within weeks.

He spoke with President Mubarak for two hours on Tuesday and then said that with "a lot of preparations beforehand" the meeting would be forthcoming shortly.

His predictions were echoed yesterday by Israeli officials accompanying his three-day visit, while Jerusalem officials said the summit - which would be the first meeting between

Egypt and Israel in four years - would take place next month. They said it had been agreed in a letter to Mr Peres from President Mubarak last week.

There has been a recent thaw in what is often described as the "cold peace" between Egypt and Israel, but Egypt is reluctant to rush into a summit without a great deal of preparation.

President Mubarak's chief political adviser, Mr Osama el Baz, said: "What counts is whether such a meeting would realize the general national interest, and when we talk about that we are not only talking about Egypt's national interest but the interest of the Arab position generally."

His remarks seem to imply that Egypt intends first to tackle stumbling blocks.

These include the issue of the border area of Tabu, in Sinai, which is claimed by both countries, a complete Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon, and a genuine movement towards solving the Palestinian problem.

After his discussions in Egypt, Mr Weizman may feel confident that he can persuade his own divided coalition Cabinet that these problems can be overcome in time for a summit next month.

It is unlikely, however, that Egypt will be bulldozed into a meeting at leader level without what they consider a satisfactory outcome on these issues.

## Death threat to surgeon treating Neves

San Paulo (Reuters) - The chief surgeon treating Brazil's 75-year-old president-elect Senhor Tancredo Neves has been given two bodyguards after receiving death threats.

Police said that Dr Henrique Pinotti had three calls from a person who said: "If Neves dies you will pay for it." Senhor Neves remains critical after seven operations in a month.

## Afghan raids

Islamabad (Reuters) - Afghan jets have flown deep inside Pakistani territory on the latest in a series of bombing raids across the mountainous border, the Government said. The jets dropped two bombs near the North-West Frontier province village of Drosh.

## Fewer crimes

Peking (AFP) - China's 20-month crackdown has sharply cut the country's crime rate to a level that is among the lowest in the world, according to the Public Security Minister. Mr Liu Fuzhi, Western diplomats say that more than 10,000 people have been executed.

## Blind drunk

Chesapeake, Virginia (AFP) - A policeman who was almost run off the road by a weaving car here stopped the vehicle expecting to find a drunken driver. He was right, except that the 24-year-old driver was also blind, having lost his sight at the age of 12.

## Flights delayed

Amsterdam (Reuters) - Flights from Amsterdam's Schiphol airport suffered delays for the second successive day as air traffic controllers continued unofficial action over a pay dispute.

## Refugees safe

Hong Kong (Reuters) - A boat carrying 106 Vietnamese refugees, including 34 children, limped into Hong Kong waters after being at sea for eight days. It was listing and water supplies and food were almost gone.

## Correction

In a report from Melbourne on page 1 on April 15, a quotation saying that Dr Runcie admitted lacking knowledge of the background to Queensland's industrial strike should have been attributed to Sir John Bjelke-Petersen, and not to Sir John Girdrod.

## Russian pledge after killing of major

From Our Correspondent, Washington

The Soviet Union has promised that it will not permit use of force or weapons against members of the American military liaison mission, in East Germany, in future, after talks with the US about the recent killing of American Major Arthur Nicholson by a Soviet soldier.

The State Department said the agreement was obtained by

the US at a meeting between General Glenn Otis, Commander-in-Chief, US Army Europe, and General Mikhail Zaytsev, Commander-in-Chief, Soviet Forces in East Germany, in Potsdam last Friday.

The Soviet side also agreed to "refer our demand for an apology and compensation to the Nicholson family to higher

authorities," the State Department said.

The US condemned the killing three weeks ago and lodged strong protests.

A State Department spokesman said yesterday it was too early to judge the results of Friday's meeting but that discussions would continue on ways of preventing Nicholson-type incidents.

## Hanoi troops stay on

Jakarta - The Vietnamese Defence Minister, Mr Van Tien Dung, left Indonesia yesterday after a controversial six-day visit with the message that Vietnam has no intention of withdrawing from Cambodia until the Heng Samrin Government can "take care of itself" (Our Correspondent writes).

Nevertheless, the Indonesian Armed Forces chief, General Benny Murdani, said after talks

with Mr Dung that he believed Hanoi was withdrawing, not simply rotating, some of its troops in Cambodia.

The visit, which has coincided with increased Vietnamese attacks on the Thai-Cambodian border and Hanoi's celebrations of the downfall of Saigon 10 years ago, has caused concern in Thailand and among Indonesia's other allies.

Cambodia obstacle, page 9

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## Greece moves to June poll as Papandreou gets Cabinet support

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Greece will have a general election on June 2 or 9 if its new President, Mr Christos Sartzetakis, grants the Government's request for an early poll which came from a special Cabinet meeting yesterday.

When the request for a June election was made by Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, two weeks ago, President Sartzetakis reserved his reply.

The Greek constitution allows the date of an election - the next should be due in October - to be advanced if a government invokes the need to renew its mandate to tackle an important national issue. The Cyprus crisis, a handy issue in such cases, was cited by Mr Papandreou.

The reason his request has had to be endorsed on the authority of a written Cabinet proposal remains unclear. But President Sartzetakis, a former judge, is known to be strict on the letter of the law, and Cyprus is no more critically troublesome today than for some time.

It may be significant that the Cabinet proposal invokes an additional reason: the need for speedy completion of procedure to amend the constitution. Amendments in hand which

strip the President of many of his executive prerogatives go into effect only after endorsement by the next parliament.

The conservative New Democracy opposition party has criticized the government sharply for having failed to commit itself to an early election date.

Mr Papandreou said after yesterday's cabinet meeting that he would ask the President to dissolve Parliament as soon as the constitutional reforms were given a second reading between May 6 and 8. "Elections could then be held in the first half of June," he said. Greek elections must be held on a Sunday.

President Sartzetakis, whose election is still contested by New Democracy, came under strong opposition fire for impromptu remarks during a Greek Easter tour of military units.

The Greeks, he said, unlike Anglo-Saxons, Slavs or Arabs, were a "brotherless people" who thus had to rely primarily on their own forces.

Opposition critics deplored the statement which, they said, echoed the socialist Government's "third-world isolationism". Albania, they said, fed its people comparable propaganda.

## Judge asks Bhopal firm to aid victims

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Union Carbide has been asked by a judge to make an emergency payment of between \$5 million (£3.9 million) and \$10 million to victims of the Bhopal gas disaster "as a matter of fundamental human decency."

Judge John Keenan, conducting preliminary hearings in a federal court in New York, also ordered funding lawyers to sort themselves out.

He said the company could provide interim relief payments without admitting liability. "If the reports I've read are true, the situation there is still critical."

The judge is trying to bring order to the confusion created by the plethora of lawsuits stemming from the disaster. He is also trying to end the squabbling among the numerous lawyers seeking a part in the litigation and a share of the huge fees at stake.

The lawyers have filed suits in various parts of the United States on behalf of disaster victims, asking for billions of dollars in damages.

They have split into three main groups, vying for the right to represent victims and holding different views on the way litigation should proceed.

Judge Keenan ordered them to select two members of a three-man committee to co-ordinate the lawsuits.



Tragedy aftermath: Mr Damodar Airan, representing Bhopal victims, speaking to the press in New York. Yesterday a judge said Union Carbide could make an emergency relief payment without admitting liability.

## France hardens attitude to Unesco and backs reforms

From Diana Geddes, Paris

A marked hardening of France's attitude towards the crisis-ridden Unesco has been confirmed by M Roland Dumas, the French Foreign Secretary, in a speech in Paris to the French national committee on Unesco.

Until now, France has always appeared in public to be the odd man out among the Western nations in tempering its criticism of Unesco's management and policies, and in giving support to its beleaguered Director-General Mr Amadou Mahtar M'Bow.

In his speech on Tuesday M Dumas spoke openly for the first time about the need for the Unesco to pursue its proper goals and "to make a constant

effort to achieve ideological neutrality... [in order to] avoid a politicization of discussions which, as the present crisis shows, can only lead to confusion, perhaps even to the disappearance of the organization".

The speedy introduction of a reform plan which would satisfy the anxieties of different member states was indispensable to the organization's survival, France shared most of those anxieties, he said. It was now up to the Director-General to draw up such a plan with a calendar for its implementation.

At the last Unesco executive board meeting in Paris in February, France announced that it would provide an extra

\$2 million (£1.57m) towards the \$28 million which needs to be found this year to make up for the loss of income due to the US withdrawal from the organization, if substantial cuts in programmes are to be avoided. All the other Western nations insisted that they would not contribute more.

Last month France said that the payment of its extra \$2 million depended on the presentation of a proper reform plan.

Commenting on the conditions attached to that contribution, M Dumas said that France would be "particularly vigilant about the implementation of the decisions taken".

## 100 more are arrested in Queensland union row

Brisbane (Reuters) - More than 100 people were arrested yesterday as protest mounted over new anti-strike laws in Australia's northern state of Queensland.

Among them were leading electrical union officials and clergymen from three denominations who are members of the Concerned Christians group.

The latest figure took to more than 200 the number of people arrested for illegal picketing in New South Wales and Victoria began a road blockade of Queensland over the legislation, which was passed in

response to a power workers' strike in February. Other unions will start a 24-hour road, air, sea and rail blockade from midnight tonight.

The Australian Council of Trade Unions has urged industrial bans on 51 companies linked with Queensland's Confederation of Industry.

Queensland's Premier, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, has said he will not repeal the legislation, which bans strikes in the power industry, or reinstate 950 sacked power workers. Their dismissal prompted a dispute which blacked out homes and businesses.

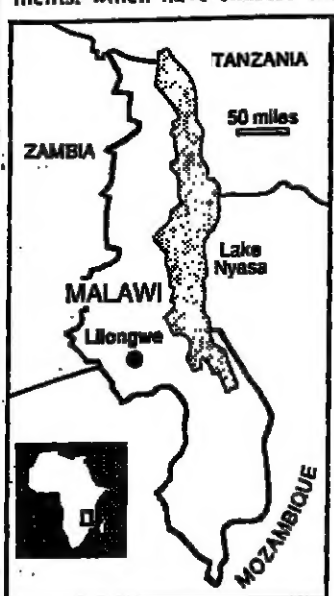
## Thatcher praises Banda

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mrs Margaret Thatcher congratulated President Hastings Banda on agricultural development in Malawi when they met at Downing Street yesterday. She said the country was a model for the rest of Africa.

The Prime Minister also told President Banda, who is thought to be aged 87, how much she had enjoyed his speech at the state banquet in Windsor Castle on Tuesday, during 2½ hours of discussions which lasted over lunch at Number Ten.

The Queen has also praised Malawi's farming achievements, which have enabled the



country to feed itself and even act as a granary for neighbouring states.

Earlier the President, who is on a four-day state visit to Britain, met ambassadors and high commissioners at a reception in Windsor Castle. After leaving Downing Street he laid a wreath on the tomb of the Unknown Warrior at Westminster Abbey and last night attended a banquet held by the Lord Mayor of London at Guildhall.

## Gibraltar chief heads for Spain

From Our Correspondent, Gibraltar

Sir Joshua Hassan, Chief Minister of Gibraltar, will visit Spain today for the first time in more than 20 years. He had refused to cross into Spain since November 1, 1964, when Spain imposed restrictions on the colony.

Sir Joshua is returning a recent official visit from Señor Rafael Palomino, president of the Mancomunidad, an organization linking seven towns and a population of 230,000 in the adjoining Campo area.

The meeting, in Algeciras, will concentrate on developing tourism in Gibraltar bay, but it is the Chief Minister's visit which is important.

Señor Palomino says it is "bringing to a close the transition towards normality".

Yet Señor Palomino, hopeful that Campo towns will benefit from tourism passing through to the dock, is realistic about what benefits an area of Spain with almost a third of the mainly agricultural workforce unemployed can expect from a population of 26,000.

## The Star Wars debate

### US drops deadline for joining defence work

From Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent, Oslo

The United States has withdrawn the 60-day deadline within which it invited the European members of Nato and some other countries to indicate whether they wished to participate in the \$26 billion (£20.4 billion) American "Star Wars" defence research programme.

While visiting Oslo this week Lord Carrington, Secretary-General of Nato, indicated that there would be more flexibility over timing than that deadline implied. It is understood that Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, has written to the governments concerned indicating that the deadline was not to be interpreted literally.

The move has been widely welcomed because the original imposition of the deadline was seen in Europe as an unsatisfactory way to deal with allies.

Lord Carrington is understood to be seeking a joint response by the four largest industrial European members of Nato, Britain, West Germany, France and Italy, to the suggestion that they should become involved in the US programme. There are, however, doubts whether agreement can be reached.

Lord Carrington is understood to be arguing that it is only through a co-ordinated response that European members of Nato can hope to maximize the advantages.

Among aspects of the programme which the US is said to have suggested as offering possibilities for European involvement, are data processing, rocket propulsion systems and the shorter range weapons

## Weinberger's letter

The following is the text of Mr Weinberger's original letter to Nato Ministers of Defence as well as Japan, Australia and Israel, details of which were announced on March 26.

In the period since President Reagan introduced his vision for Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), many of our Allies have informally expressed an interest in participating in this research program. At the same time, some of our friends have sought clarification of our policy and attitude toward such cooperation. I am writing to you today both to make clear my Government's views on this important subject and to begin a direct dialogue with you thereon.

As you know, the purpose of the SDI is to determine whether there are cost-effective defensive technologies that could enhance deterrence and increase stability. Because our security is inextricably linked to that of our friends and Allies, we will work closely over the next several years with our Allies to ensure that, in the event of any future decision to deploy defensive systems (a decision in which consultation with our Allies would play an important part), Allied, as well as US, security against aggression would be enhanced. Moreover, the SDI program will not confine itself solely to an exploitation of technologies with potential against ICBMs, and SLBMs, but will also carefully

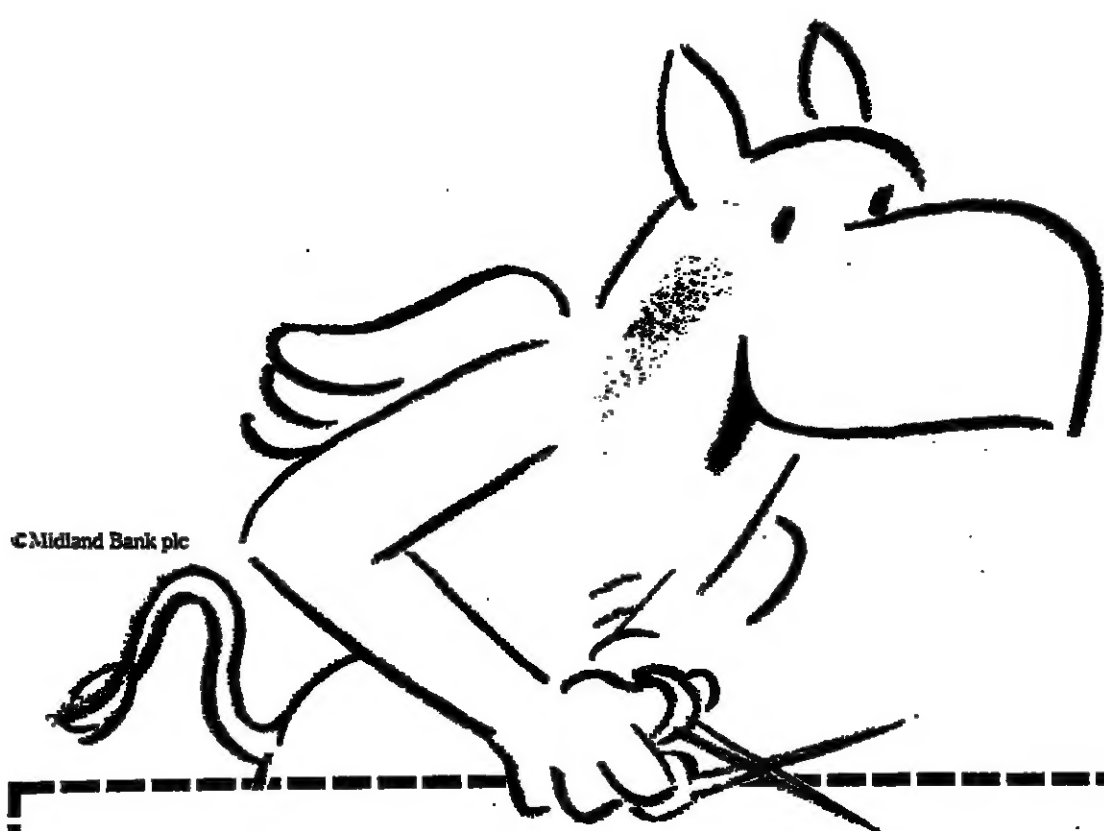
examine technologies with potential against shorter-range ballistic missiles.

The US will, consistent with our existing international obligations including the ABM Treaty, proceed with cooperative research with the Allies in areas of technology that could contribute to the SDI program. Pursuant to this policy, the US is permitted - and is prepared - to undertake such cooperative programs on data and technology short of ABM component level as may be mutually agreed with Allied countries.

If your nation is interested in exploring possible cooperative efforts or contributions, I would ask, as a first step, that you send me, within 60 days, an indication of your interest in participating in the SDI research program and the areas of your country's research promising for this program. In order to provide a more comprehensive basis for your assessment of pertinent capabilities and to help expedite the process, the US is Washington so that your government's scientific/technical representatives may receive detailed briefings on the SDI program during this period.

We would expect to give your responsive prompt consideration with a view to initiating an appropriate bilateral discussion on specific areas and arrangements for cooperation.

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Attitude to reforms

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## Troops enforce curfew as nine die in Gujarat caste troubles

From Michael Hamlyn  
Delhi

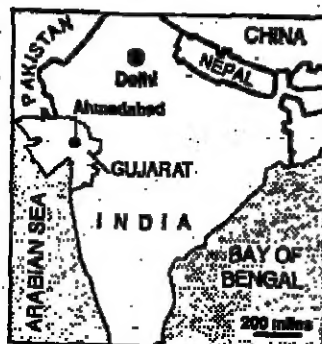
With soldiers in olive green uniforms patrolling the streets and an indefinite curfew in the old city of Ahmedabad, capital of Gujarat, a tense calm has descended after a spate of violence in which nine died.

More than 30 people have lost their lives in troubles which have set caste against caste, Hindu against Muslim, and untouchable or tribal against the rest.

The agitation, which has lasted more than a month, was sparked by a plan to create more reserved places at university and in government employment for so-called backward castes.

Reserved places, an emphatic form of reverse discrimination, is an article of faith in Indian society, sanctified by the constitution and endorsed by every Indian leader from Mahatma Gandhi onwards - particularly by Mahatma Gandhi.

In Gujarat and in most other states, however, the policy has been applied only to the Untouchables, whom Gandhi called Harijans (God's people), and tribal inhabitants who for



euphony's sake and because they tend to live in remote hill districts are often called girjans (hill people).

One so-called reservation crisis has arisen since the Chief Minister of Gujarat announced that the policy would apply not only to Harijans and girjans but also to the backward castes.

He ruled that they would qualify for reserved places not by virtue of income but simply by virtue of their caste.

His move was made presumably for electoral reasons, since he did it just before December's general election, after having sat on a report on the subject for 18 months.

The decision has infuriated

the "forward castes" who find their opportunity for further education or for government employment cut by a further 28 per cent. Many students simply took to the streets to protest.

The protests were badly handled by the Gujarat administration, which yielded too late by allowing that reservation would be postponed for a year while everyone thought about it. Now the agitators, the bit between their teeth, are seeking an end to reserved places altogether.

The backward castes are upset about the postponement. The Harijans are furious at what they see as an attack on their position.

And, not unnaturally in such circumstances, as community feelings arise everybody starts to take it out on the Muslims, who until now had been keeping their heads down and letting the Hindus fight it out among themselves.

Ahmedabad, centre of India's cotton industry, which was the focus of Gandhi's first campaign against the British, is now in the forefront of anti-Gandhian intolerance.

A cartoon in a weekly magazine here shows the state's rejection of Gandhism by depicting a huge bare foot crushing a pair of Gandhi-style spectacles.

The Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has not played this crisis well, appearing to encourage the agitators by saying that the whole reservation policy needs further examination.

He has now reacted firmly, however, by flying his Home Secretary, Mr R D Pradhan, to Gujarat, and by sending six companies of paramilitary police reservists to help keep order.

## Karachi bus death riots

Karachi (Reuters) - Nine people were shot dead when police fired on crowds protesting after a girl student was knocked down by a minibus and killed, according to doctors at a government hospital.

At least 100 others have been treated for wounds from bullets, pellets and teargas. City officials imposed a curfew on five areas of Karachi after troops failed to control the protesters.

Most of the victims died on Tuesday and yesterday, the doctors said. Female students launched the protest on Monday after Miss Bushra Zaidi, aged 20, was killed.

More than 3,000 youths protested by setting fire to at least 40 buses, trucks and other vehicles. Police said 200 vehicles and seven banks were damaged and dozens of shops looted.

## Deng sees Cambodia as top obstacle

From Mary Lee, Peking

China's top leader, Deng Xiaoping, yesterday called on the Soviet Union to remove the easiest of three obstacles blocking normalization of Sino-Soviet relations which he named as Moscow's support for Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia.

The official Xinhua News Agency quoted Deng as saying: "It was too difficult for the Soviet Union to solve all three problems [Cambodia, Afghanistan and Soviet forces stationed along the border with

China] at once. We think these things could be done by starting with one of the obstacles."

Mr Deng, who was speaking to Belgian reporters before meeting the Belgian Prime Minister, Mr Wilfried Martens, said the easiest would be for the Soviet Union to encourage Vietnam to withdraw its troops from Cambodia.

According to Xinhua, Mr Deng said this would be a sensible course as it would not harm the Soviet Union.

A Western diplomat said it was significant that, while the sixth round of normalization talks were in progress in Moscow, Mr Deng should suggest in public which of the obstacles the Soviet Union should try to remove first. Peking is putting pressure on Vietnam via Moscow, the diplomat said. The "Deng initiative" indicates China's recognition that Moscow could be made if Moscow could show it really wanted relations to move forward.



Memorial garden: Relatives of 34 Japanese among the 90 who died when two Spanish aircraft collided at Madrid Airport in December 1983, praying yesterday after having offered flowers and planted cherry trees in a garden near the airport.

## Buy British Tebbit tells Japanese

Tokyo (AP) - The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Mr Norman Tebbit, met the Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr Shintaro Abe yesterday and asked Japan to take into consideration the European Community's demands that it open up its markets.

A Foreign Ministry official quoted Mr Tebbit as saying he understood that Japan was working to settle trade friction with the United States, but some EEC nations were concerned that their requests might be ignored.

Mr Abe told Mr Tebbit that Japan took the EEC and Asian nations into consideration when it drew up its new market-opening package, the official said.

Earlier, Mr Tebbit met three other Cabinet ministers.

Mr Tebbit, who arrived in Tokyo on Monday, told Mr Keijiro Murata, the Minister of International Trade and Industry, that Britain wants to sell

airbuses and defence equipment to reduce the British deficit, in trade with Japan. Japan had a \$2.4 billion trade surplus with Britain in 1984.

Mr Tebbit also said British banks were interested in doing business in Japan. Mr Murata told Mr Tebbit that private firms would decide on purchases of airbuses.

## Atrocities in Guatemala Holy Week of shame and death

From John Carlin, Mexico City

Guatemala remains Central America's most sinister nation in spite of official claims that, with presidential elections due this year, full democracy is only just around the corner.

Whatever the international pressures on its military leaders, the sufferings of its people continue.

Last week there were rumours of a coup against General Oscar Mejia Victores, who came to power in a coup against another general 18 months ago.

But the Roman Catholic Church knows as well as anyone that a coup in Guatemala means no more than a military reshuffle, absolute consensus existing among the officer corps that brutal anti-communism should be the beginning and end of army ideology.

"The future of the country, is dark and uncertain," said the Archbishop of Guatemala City last week. Archbishop Próspero Penados was speaking from the altar at the end of what he described as "a Holy Week of sorrow, shame and death".

At dawn on Maundy Thursday, April 4, lying at the bottom of a ravine just outside the capital, were found the asphyxiated bodies of Señora Rosario Godoy, aged 24, her

son, aged two, and her younger brother.

Señora Godoy was the vice-president and founder-member of Mutual Support Group, an organization of relatives of people who have "disappeared" in Guatemala, abducted, they are convinced, by the security forces.

Señora Godoy's husband, Carlos, a university student, was kidnapped by the Security Forces last May. Nothing has been heard of him since.

Initially Mutual Support consisted of the families of 10 disappeared people. Today it has grown to 620 families, fearfully publicising their grief, to the increasing irritation of the military.

On March 15 General Mejia declared Mutual Support a "subversive" group supported by left-wing guerrillas. A few days later threats started to arrive at the homes of Mutual Support leaders.

The body of one of them, Señora Héctor Gómez, was found on March 31. His tongue and teeth had been wrenched out - a message, explained the Mexico-based Guatemalan Commission for Human Rights, warning Mutual Support "to stop talking".

Also on March 31, unaware of Señora Gómez's killing, Señora Godoy wrote a letter to her mother-in-law in Costa

Rica, a copy of which has been obtained by The Times.

She wrote that she had been threatened by the Government. "I am going crazy. I wish this nightmare had never begun. I look at Augusto [her now murdered son] and I become more desperate as I see his little eyes screaming at me to give him a peaceful, happy home..."

The Guatemalan Human Rights Commission says at least 32 people were murdered, five of them children, and 12 "disappeared" between March 27 and April 9.

Since a CIA-organized coup in 1954 installed the military in power in Guatemala, international human rights groups believe more than 100,000 Guatemalans have either disappeared or have been the victims of political murder.

GUATEMALA CITY: The Guatemalan military regime, facing political and economic difficulties, has received backing from the United States embassy, (AFP reports).

The embassy said the US State Department supported Guatemala's steps towards democracy, as well as "any other measures" appropriate to improving the economic situation so that a civilian administration could inherit a solvent economy.

## Missing boy led into Paris male prostitution

From Diana Geddes  
Paris

The discovery of a 14-year-old runaway schoolboy, drugged and working as a prostitute in one of the well-known red-light districts of Paris, has intensified the fears of thousands of parents whose children similarly disappear from home every year, some never to return.

Thierry, who lived with his father and stepmother in Montmartre, ran away last January with just a few francs in his pocket. In February he turned up in Marseilles, where he met a man who led Thierry into prostitution. He was said to have given the boy powerful doses of tranquilizers every day to keep him docile.

Last week in Paris Thierry was spotted, by a social worker who specializes in juvenile prostitution, in a district near the Opera well known for male prostitution. He was allegedly handing over to M Daniel Passalacqua, aged 28, a father of two, a sum of money he had just received from a client. The police were called, and M Passalacqua arrested.

In an interview published yesterday, Thierry's father, an unemployed sales representative, said: "For two months, I looked everywhere for my son. I thought of a thousand things that might have happened to him, but I hardly thought of homosexual prostitution. Thierry never had any inclination in that direction." He said he had been helped in his search by M Joel Weiss, the social worker who finally found his son. "He took me to some incredible places. I visited establishments where clients openly bought children of their choice from the hotel managers. I ask myself how such things can still go on."

In 1982, the latest year for which records are available, more than 13,000 children, aged between 13 and 16, disappeared from their homes in France. Sixty per cent returned within 48 hours, and a further 30 per cent turned up within 10 days. But 2,332 were never seen again.

According to police, only a small number will have suffered the same fate as Thierry. But M Weiss, who is compiling a dossier on the bars and hotels in an around Paris which deal in juvenile prostitution, estimates that there are more than 5,000 children under the age of 18 who are working as prostitutes in the greater Paris area.

### ADVERTISEMENT

# Goodbye to all this?

Listed below are just some of the organisations that may disappear.

British Film Institute  
Black Female Prisoners Scheme  
Pakistan Welfare Society  
Welsh Harp Conservation Group  
North Lambeth Day Centre for the Homeless  
Women's Engineering Society  
Institute of Race Relations  
Collegium Musicum of London (Performing Arts)  
Black Productions for African National Congress  
Crystal Palace Basketball School  
Arts Line (Disability Information)  
Black Theatre Co-operative  
Contemporary Dance Trust Limited  
Extempore Dance Theatre  
Greater London Association for Community Artists  
Greater London Arts Association  
Lesbian Feminist Writers Conference  
Planning Group  
London Film Makers Co-operative  
National Jazz Centre  
British Judo Association  
Chinese Information and Advice Centre  
Joint Committee Against Racism  
London Interpreting Project  
Association for Community Health Councils for England and Wales  
Child Poverty Action Group  
Disability Alliance Educational and Research Association  
Greater London Pensioners and T.U. Action Association  
Association for Community Health Councils for England and Wales  
London Voluntary Service Council  
London Gay Teenage Group (Research and Counselling)  
National Council for One Parent Families  
National Association for Deaf, Blind and Rubella Handicapped  
Alone in London Service (Support and Advice for Young People)  
Campaign for the Homeless and Rootless  
Capital Jobmate  
National Childcare Campaign  
Actionspace Limited (Community Theatre)  
Fauna and Flora Preservation Society  
Neighbourhood Use of Buildings and Space (Technical Aid)  
London Region CND  
World Disarmament Campaign  
Federation of London Dial A Ride (Disability Transport)  
Lesbian Line (Counselling Service)  
London Community Health Resource  
National Council for Civil Liberties  
Only Women Press (Publishing Group)  
Women and The Law Video Collective

West Indian Standing Conference  
National Association for Limbless Disabled  
Society for Prevention of Asbestosis and Industrial Diseases  
Public Transport Workers Jobs Campaign  
UK Caribbean Chamber of Commerce  
MATRIX (Women's Architects Co-operative)  
WEFT (Women's Resource Project)  
Riverside Studios (Arts Centre)  
Photographers Gallery Limited  
Sensible Footwear (Performing Arts)  
The Venue (Theatre)  
Women in Film and Television and Video Network  
BSAF Wheelchair London Marathon  
British Canoe Union  
Centre for Multi-Cultural Education  
Caribbean Slide Project  
Latin American Advisory Committee  
Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom  
Child Poverty Action Group  
London Marriage Guidance Council  
Church Army Resettlement Team (Homelessness Project)  
Housing Advice Switchboard  
MIND (Mental Health Project)  
Turning Point (Drug Abuse Project)  
Invalid Children's Aid Organisation  
Low Pay Unit (Campaigning Group)  
Marble Arch Intensive English (Education Project)  
Royal Town Planning Institute  
Town and Country Planning Association  
London Accident Prevention Council  
Central London Women and Computing  
Drugs, Alcohol and Women Nationally (Support and Advice)  
Feminist Library and Information Centre  
National Abortion Campaign  
London Museum Service  
London and Kent Amateur Gymnastics Association  
RYA Seafarers Foundation (Training Project)  
Joint Industry Board for Film Training  
Save The Children Fund  
Family Planning Association  
Association of Jamaicans UK Trust  
Gay Men's Press (Publishers)  
Bangladesh Women's Association  
Greater London Child Minding Group  
Irish in Britain Representation Group  
Chilean Cultural Committee  
Sadlers Wells Theatre  
World University Service  
Friend Counselling London Limited  
Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults  
Union of Turkish Workers  
Friends of the Earth  
Campaign Against Arms Trade  
Medical Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons

Transport for an Improved City  
Abortion Law Reform Association  
London Women's Newsletter Collective  
Rape Counselling and Research Project  
Sisters Against Disablement  
Spare Rib (Magazine)  
Academy of Indian Dance  
Commission of Philippine Migrant Workers  
Black Londoners Action Committee  
Ethiopian World Confederation Inc.  
Federation of Spanish Migrant Workers  
Irish Video Project  
National Committee on Racism in Children's Books  
Greater London Association for the Disabled  
Black Media Workers Association  
Scientists Against Nuclear Arms  
National Amnesty Int  
Jewish Film Festival  
London Festival Ballet  
London Wall Limited (Women's Mural Project)  
National Theatre Board Limited  
The Young Vic (Theatre)  
UK Association for People with Mental Handicap  
All London Teachers Against Racism and Facism  
Conference of Ethnic Minority Senior Citizens  
Action for Victims of Medical Accidents  
Age Concern  
Federation of Independent Advice Centres  
Abyssinian Society (Youth Work)  
Greater London Lesbian and Gay  
Employment Campaign  
UK Sport for the Mentally Handicapped  
Caribbean Teachers Association  
Polytechnic of The South Bank Institutional Racism Project  
Credit Union League of Great Britain  
Local Government and Health Rights Project  
Confederation of Indian Organisations  
London Hazard Centre (Health and Safety Research Project)  
Ecological Parks Trust (Nature Conservancy)  
Campaign to Improve London's Transport  
London Cycling Campaign  
London County Council Tramways Trust  
Shelter (Housing Aid Centre)  
Camerawork (Photographic Publication)  
Circle Women's Film and Video Distribution  
National Museum of Labour History  
Whitechapel Art Gallery  
London Community Cultural Association  
Third World Development Co-operative  
Doctors for a Woman's Choice on Abortion  
Foundation for Women's Health Research and Development  
Black Teens Magazine  
Art of the Puppet Limited (International Puppet Festival)  
National Lobby for the Arts

Women Artists Slide Library  
Black on Black Magazine  
West Indian Ex-Servicemen's Association  
Association to Combat Huntington's Chorea (Health/Disability)  
Save Britain's Heritage  
Capital Radio Fringe Theatre Box Office  
English National Opera  
The First International Feminist Book Fair Group  
Independent Film and Video Makers Association  
Indian Artists  
Institute of Contemporary Art/  
William Morris Society  
Minority Arts Advisory Service  
Other Cinema (Film Distribution and Presentation)

Throughout London, hundreds of local organisations believe that they will suffer if the GLC is abolished, that the services they provide will be severely reduced, and that many of them will disappear.

They all do vital work within their communities. That is why the GLC and the London Boroughs give them grants. Abolition of the GLC will remove the largest source of community funding in the capital.

Local organisations, like many Londoners, made their views known to Whitehall, but, so far, to little effect.

These organisations believe that they are in jeopardy. If you are concerned about this, you can ask your M.P. to raise the issue in Parliament. London cannot afford to say goodbye to all this.

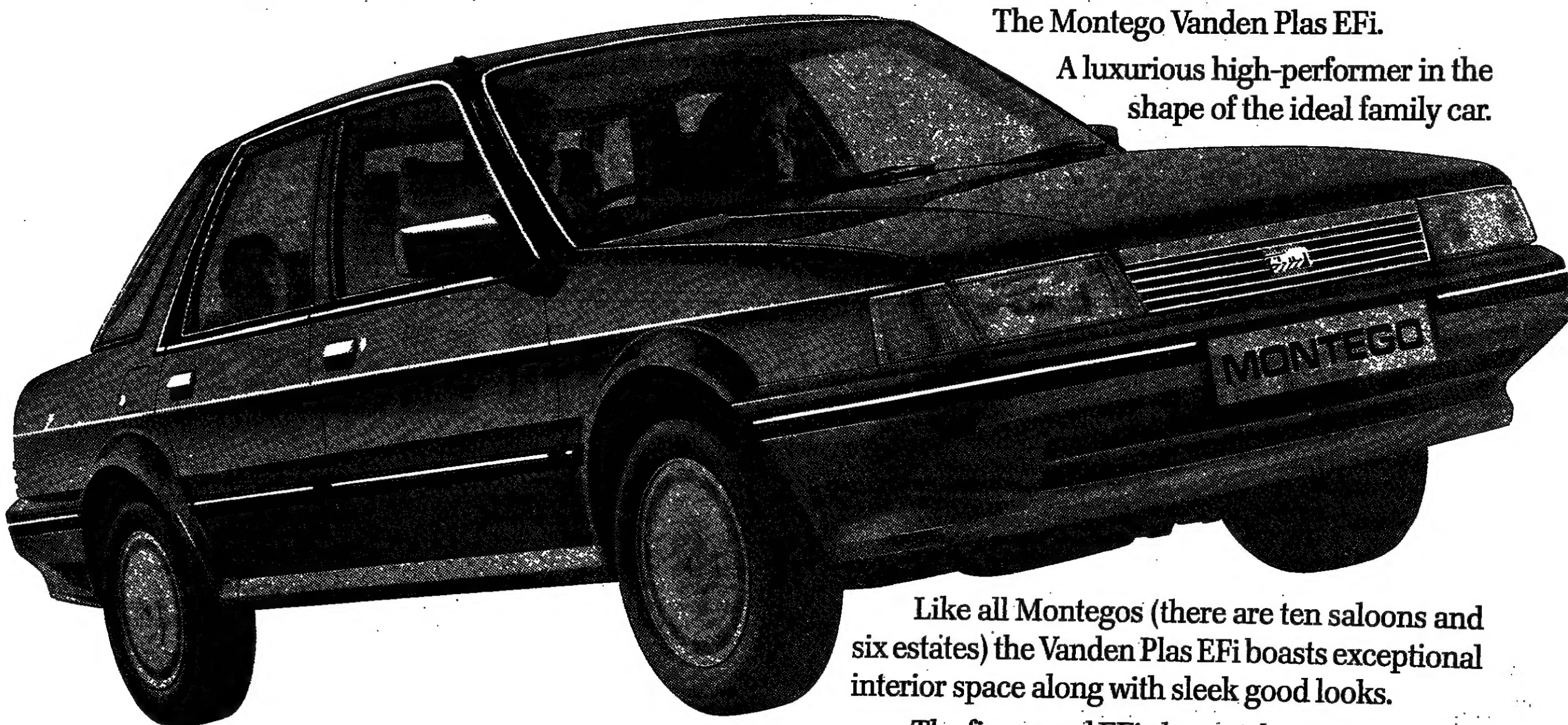
If you would like further information, write to: Director General's Dept. (GLC), DG/PSG/SP, The County Hall, London SE1 7FB.

# GLC

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\*Manufacturer's data. D.O.T. Figs: Montego 2.0 Vanden Plas EFI simulated urban cycle 29.2 mpg/3.7L per 100km. Constant 56 mph 49.6 mpg/5.7L per 100km. Constant 75 mph 37.6 mpg/7.5L per 100km. Prices correct at time of going to press excl. number plates and delivery.  
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# SPECTRUM

## The unbridled King of the Turf

### The Times Profile: Lester Piggott



Wonder boy Piggott at 14

There have been four unquestionably great jockeys riding on the English Turf in the last hundred years and more: Fred Archer, Steve Donoghue, Sir Gordon Richards - and Lester Piggott who has dominated the Flat for a generation. Many good judges would say that he is the greatest of all. The season which has just begun is his thirty-eighth and, almost certainly his last.

It has to be "almost" since nothing about Lester Keith Piggott is ever quite certain. This year the master of suspense kept them waiting again. He did not turn up to add his usual extra frisson to the first meeting of the season at Doncaster, lingering instead in the southern hemisphere where he rides in the winters. But as the season gets into its stride with the important meetings at Newmarket and Newbury, it promises to be as fascinating as any in his career.

There are not many records set by those other great jockeys left for him to break. He might conceivably be in the hunt for the jockey's championship which he held for eight years. He would surely, dearly, love to set one last record being broken in turn by winning a tenth Derby at Epsom on June 5. And he starts the season with his life - not for the first time but more than ever - surrounded by mystery and even a whiff of scandal.

He burst upon the racing world as a child wonder, well before most of the jockeys he now rides against were born. Strictly speaking, it was even before he was in his teens. His first winner was at Haydock Park in 1948 when not yet 13. Within a few years, he had put a couple of apprentice championships behind him and was in the front flight of English jockeys. He was second in the Derby at 16 and two years later, in 1954, on Never Say Die, he first won the race which has since been a focal point in his astonishing career.

As an adolescent he already showed the characteristics by which he would dominate racing season after season. He is a horseman of genius, with an empathetic feel for the horse and a brilliant judge of pace and of timing - in the days before starting stalls he was probably the best rider ever seen at the start. He can time a run to perfection, nursing a horse beyond its true distance; or he can masterfully "wait in front", toying with a field behind him. He is immensely strong in a finish, not least because he is much bigger than most Flat jockeys.

These are the qualities which have brought him his championships and his almost certainly unbeaten record of 28 seasons in the English classics. They are believed to have made him the richest English sportsman ever. Golfers, footballers, cricketers can make

healthy money today, but none is in the same league as this racing superstar. For all that his financial life is shrouded in fascinating mystery. Above all he has the will to win. No-one ever doubted that. On the contrary, even his friends might have sometimes wished that the will had been tempered by a little caution or common sense. As it is, his life on the Turf has been lived in a series of blazing rows and controversies - about all of which Lester has always given the impression that he couldn't care less. Though in one sense hugely "popular", there can rarely have been a sportsman who was more respected and less loved.

Part of the stubbornness was bred in him through a long line of remarkable horsemen and women. His father Keith Piggott, was a steeplechase jockey who won the Grand National three times before he turned to training. Keith's nephew, Margaret Campbell, was sister to three jockeys, including the champion of the 1990s, William Llewellyn. Campbell, Lester Piggott's mother, Mrs. Rieksby was the great-granddaughter

of the trainer of the 1855 Derby. It is a remarkable pedigree. His obduracy was on display early in his career when he rode Never Say Die again at Ascot a fortnight after the Derby and was stood down for the rest of the season by the stewards for reckless riding. The Jockey Club men may have hoped to knock some sense and some respect for others into the boy. How far they succeeded is still a matter for debate. He has had numberless brushes with authority since. Nothing has much changed his ferocious determination to go for a gap, even if small and diminishing, to push a tired horse with terrible fervour in the last yards of a race.

He is notoriously solitary and withdrawn, partly because he is rather deaf and has a speech impediment. He doesn't give his heart to men or women, owners or trainers. Most of his professional relationships have been tense.

For a decade he was stable jockey to Sir Noel Murless and rode two Derby winners for him, Crepello and St. Paddy. But the two men came to a sour parting of the ways. Then in the 1970s he enjoyed a remarkable partnership with the Irish trainer Vincent O'Brien, winning four Derbys for him on Sir Ivor, Nijinsky, Roberto and The Minstrel.

That connection came to an abrupt and apparently rocky end also, though some say there was and still is more to it than meets the eye. Then came the years with Henry Cecil.

A racegoer could almost guess Piggott's attitude to trainers and owners from his attitude to the fans. He has almost never been known to respond to the shouts of encouragement as he rides to the start, or the cheers as he unsaddles a winner. He sits stony-faced, win or lose, a seller at Brighton or a classic.

Once he rode a particularly brilliant race on a well-backed favourite. Back in the enclosure, in front of a cheering crowd, his features were as impassive as ever. The beaming trainer told Piggott he might at least give the punters a smile. "Why should I? It'd just be throwing things at me."

On other occasions the crowd has been less than enthusiastic about his victories. Rarely has a Derby winner been so silently greeted as when Piggott won on Roberto in 1972. The jockey engaged to ride him was the much-liked Bill Williamson. He was, however, told near the last moment that he would not ride. Piggott was generally held to have engineered this though, in fact, the decision was Vincent O'Brien's. Not that Piggott would ever hesitate to accept a promising ride in whatever the circumstances. And the cynical racegoer will say that ruthlessness was rewarded.



Lester Piggott relaxes off the course: a racing superstar shrouded in mystery

Almost no jockey alive - perhaps none at all - could have ridden the finish that Lester rode to win that race on Roberto. Good judges agree that if the jockeys on the two neck-and-neck horses had been switched, so would the result. On top of a good horse, Lester Piggott is a very valuable commodity indeed. Jockey's financial arrangements are covered by grave regulations. They are meant to be paid a fixed fee per race (though it can be increased) and a "present" for winning. Any fee they receive as retainer from the stables they race for is supposed to be registered with Weatherbys, the Jockey Club's secretariat.

It may be supposed that breaches of these rules have often taken place in the past and been winked at. They can never have been so flagrant as Lester Piggott's "special relationship" with Henry Cecil and his

owners. Rumours had been circulating for some time of a highly unorthodox arrangement before the story broke six weeks ago. In fact, Cecil had been writing to his owners explaining an "additional" annual retainer to Piggott of £45,000 and, more remarkable, a guarantee that the jockey should receive a share in any colt on which he won in a big race. That is not a trifle. A share - one-fortieth - of a Derby-winning horse retainer, to add is worth anything upwards of £500,000.

Of course, genius dictates its own terms in many fields besides racing, and this was not the first time that such doctored have been given. What was truly remarkable was Mr Cecil's naivety in putting it in writing in envelopes marked "strictly private and confidential", along with a request that the letter should be destroyed. Some might use an

even stronger word than naive. Piggott has come through plenty of scrapes before, and will very likely come through this one. As even those who don't adore him admit it would be said if the affair closed his last season in the saddle. He will be 50 in November. All his life, race-riding has meant for him an exhausting battle to keep his weight down, as it did also Fred Archer - who killed himself a hundred years ago in a fit of depression brought on by racing. Unlike him, Lester is not a depressive, just an introvert. All the same he will welcome the opportunity to put on a healthy stone and a half and see the cranes in his face fill out. He has been preparing for some time to take up his second career as a trainer at the Epsom stables in Newmarket which he owns. Despite the vast sums of

### BIOGRAPHY

1935: Born November 5, son of Ernest and Mrs Piggott  
1948: Rides first professional winner at Haydock Park  
1949-54: In father's stable  
1950-1: Champion apprentice  
1952: Second in Derby  
1954: Wins Derby  
1956-67: Retained by Sir Noel Murless  
1964-71: Champion jockey  
1963: Ninth Derby winner  
1965: Tenth, and retirement?

### CLASSIC VICTORIES

Derby winners  
1954: Never Say Die 1957: Crepello  
1960: St Paddy 1968: Sir Ivor 1970: Nijinsky 1972: Roberto 1976: Empery 1977: The Minstrel 1983: Teenoso

Total of 28 winners in the two English Classics (1,000 Guineas, 2,000 Guineas Derby, Oaks, St Leger)

money nowadays floating around the world of top-class bloodstock, it may be that he has held back from the transfer just because he earns so much as a jockey.

"You make a hell of a lot more riding than training nowadays", his old gaffer Sir Noel says. Even a genius in the yard could scarcely expect to turn out Derby winners in his first flat season, and as Piggott knows better than most, Derby winners and the like are what brings in the real money.

Not many Flat-race jockeys have made a go of it as trainers. Piggott has one inestimable advantage: a close group of rich connections. Mr Robert Sangster, the McKinnon brothers, and Mr Charles St George. At present Mr St George's horses are trained by Henry Cecil. One of them, Lanfranco, is winter favourite for the Derby. Cecil's present retained jockey is the young American Steve Cauthen. He ought to ride the horse at Epsom; but then that is what Bill Williamson thought 13 years ago.

One career is ending for Piggott, another beginning amidst rumour and intrigue, high finance, international owners and astronomical stables fees. It sounds a perfect plot for our greatest thriller writers - and who should be writing Piggott's biography to be published when he retires from the saddle but Dick Francis?

Geoffrey Wheatcroft

Charles Kneivt and Nick Wates on new life for our decaying inner cities.

## Power to the people of the twilight world

in which they live or work as well as commissioning, and designing a scheme with help from a local architect. The extent to which the users of the buildings participate can vary from consultation to full control, and it operates at many different scales, from the individual home to the planning of entire neighbourhoods.

The idea of creating an environment directly responsive to people's social and cultural aspirations encourages and reinforces personal identity and a sense of community which is absent from virtually all mass housing and inner city renewal schemes of the last 40 years. The method of commissioning buildings in post-Second World War reconstruction has led to enormous social as well as technical failures, such as high-rise and deck-access flats. The cost of putting them right has been estimated at more than £5 billion by the end of the century. The problem is not confined to this country, of course, but it is most evident in the more technically advanced countries of the world and not least in America.

But in many pioneering schemes throughout the worst afflicted twilight areas, community architecture has been shown to work. Liverpool, Glasgow, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle and Macclesfield are among towns and cities which have benefitted from this new approach.

The keys to its success are the 'disaggregation' of the scale of the project (small is beautiful); the devolution of power to a residents' association, tenants' group or town trust; and giving people access to professional advice, which may be a local authority architect or private consultant living and working in the same community as his clients, the users of his buildings.

We are only at the start of a fundamental change in the approach to breathing new life into our troubled inner cities. The scale of the problem is immense, but while much of what has been built in recent years has proved to be an environmental disaster - and therefore may be seen as part of the problem - community architecture is a major contribution to the solution, both for inner cities and elsewhere.

● Charles Kneivt and Nick Wates are authors of *Community Architecture: How People Can Shape Their Own Environment* to be published next year by Penguin Books.

### HOW COMMUNITY ARCHITECTURE GREW

1960s: Dramatic growth of voluntary and community-based groups protesting about official architecture and planning.

1968: Saffron Walden Report, *People and Planning* is published, the first Government inquiry into methods of public participation. Shelter's Neighbourhood Action Project launched in Liverpool, with a resident architect working in a local community for the first time.

Early 1970s: Calls for citizen participation in shaping the environment from British writers and academics such as Colin Ward and John F. Turner. A new breed of radical 'community architects' start working for local groups in Glasgow, Macclesfield, Newcastle and London.

1973: Town and Country Planning Association launches Planning Aid Unit to co-ordinate a network of professionals willing to assist community groups.

1975: Term 'Community Architecture' is coined to describe the work by architect Rod Macneil in Black Road, Macclesfield.

1976: Community Architecture Working Group formed by the Royal Institute of British Architects.

1977: Architectural Aid Scheme launched in Norfolk by architects holding 'surgeries' at Citizens' Advice Bureaux. Community architecture lectures in BBC Television's *Tomorrow's World* programme.

1979: The first Community Technical Aid Centres open in Manchester and Liverpool with architects and other professionals providing environmental assistance to community groups.

1980: Inner city riots erupt in Bristol, Tooting, Moss Side.

1982: Liverpool's first new-build co-operative completed. Community Projects Scheme launched by RIBA with money from Department of the Environment's Urban Initiatives Fund so that community groups can appoint their own architect.

1983: Association of Community Technical Aid Centres (ACTAC) launched.

1984: The Prince of Wales endorses community architecture in a speech in May to architects at Hampton Court Palace, October Westminster City Council appoints community architect.

1985: January Government backs £2.5 million Liverpool housing co-operative, by-passing Left-wing city council. A month later the Prince reaffirms his support for community architecture when he addresses 4,000 businessmen at the Institute of Directors' annual convention at the Royal Albert Hall.

On the same day the Government announces it is to launch five City Action Teams (CATS) as inner-city initiatives. In March the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, endorses the RIBA's Community Urban Design Assistance Teams project (CUDATS) in a speech which also refers to his Commission on Urban Priority Areas, due to report later this year. In April RIBA launches Urban Assistance Group and the Decaying Britain Campaign.

1985: January Government backs £2.5 million Liverpool housing co-operative, by-passing Left-wing city council. A month later the Prince reaffirms his support for community architecture when he addresses 4,000 businessmen at the Institute of Directors' annual convention at the Royal Albert Hall.

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### CASE STUDIES

#### LIVERPOOL

Public sector housing has been rejuvenated by new-build co-operatives. More than 800 families have formed 17 co-ops to build new homes.

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Bill Halliwell, an experienced co-op architect, says: "It's environmental emancipation. If the process could be extended over the whole city it could really become an amazing place to live."

**BIRMINGHAM**  
Britain's most extensive and systematic community architecture service is Birmingham City Council's urban renewal programme.

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Project worker Frances Heywood says: "It's given people pride in their area."



Playtime in the cities

**LONDON**  
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- Accusatory (13)
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- Fish-egg (5)
- Dictionary (7)
- Glazed, salted biscuit (7)
- US Civil War "Free States" (5)
- Recovery (9)
- Play on words (3)
- Churchill's war deputy (7,6)

**DOWN**

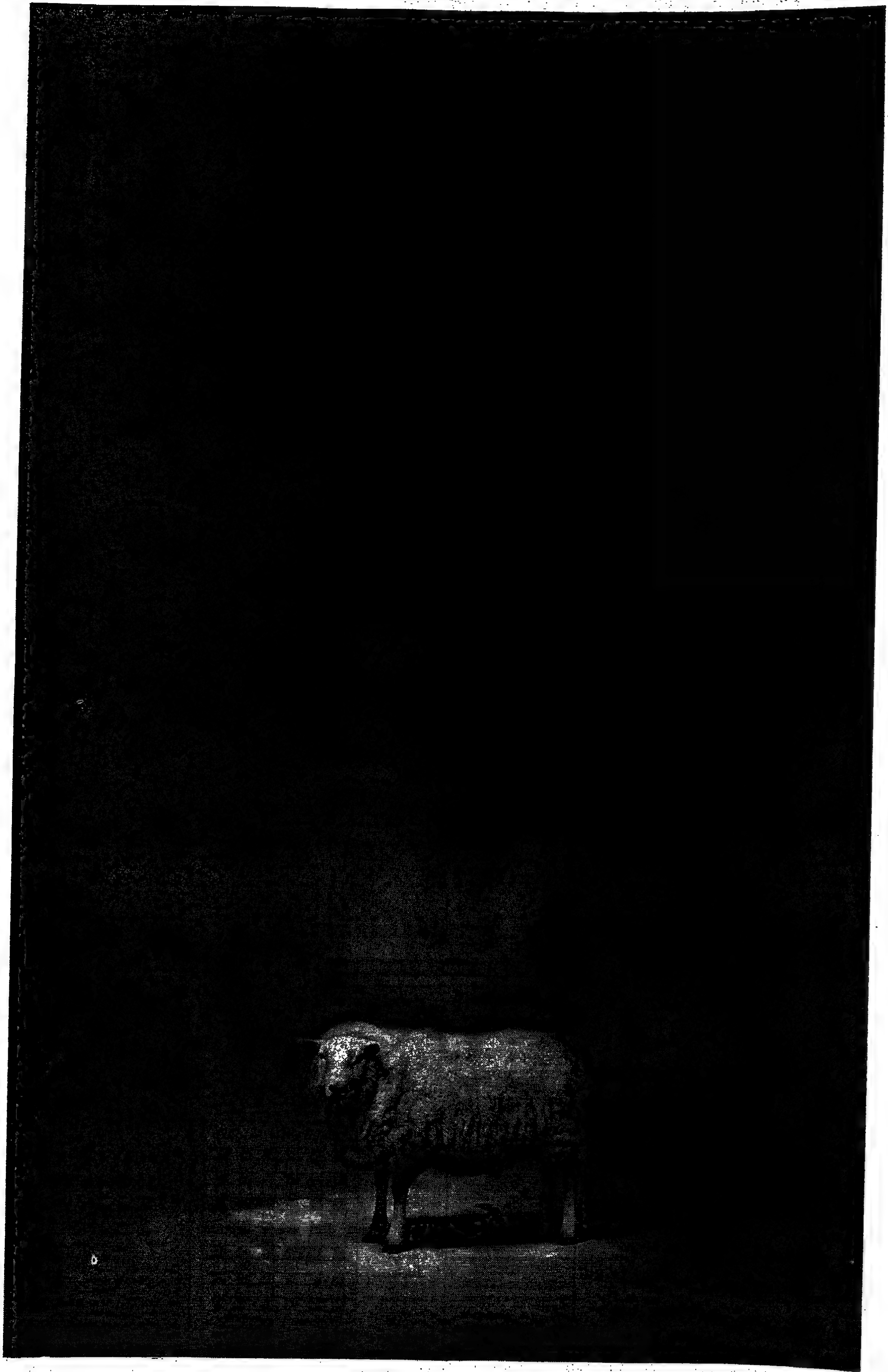
- Trousers straps (6)
- Tuching skin condition (6)
- Sideline eyeglasses (5,3)
- Threelike structure (6)
- Go by (4)
- Foreign rock fragment (8)
- Frame membrane (6)
- Accepted standard (6)
- Lightness (6)
- Slight wave (6)
- Hammer (6)
- Don Juan's mother (4)
- Respect (6)
- Lightness (6)
- Slight wave (6)
- Hammer (6)
- Don Juan's mother (4)

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**DOWN:** 1 Pole 2 Misguided 3 Miami 4 Perch 5 Rump 6 Duncie 10 Focus 11 Girih 12 Tondo 13 Hontentot 14 Wide 15 Sind 18 Ionis 20 Catch 21 Omega 22 Germ 23 Fry





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PILKINGTON



## BOOKS I

## Daddy's girl

Here is a shoddy piece of publishing from Weidenfeld, who claim that Professor Peters' book will become the standard biography of Anna Freud. It will certainly not become a standard anything in this translation (copyright Schocken Books Inc. no translator mentioned) which appears to be the work of someone with a deficient grasp of either English or German or perhaps both. Bad sentence construction. "Hartmann was analyzed by Freud - in fact for free - who was also Anna Freud's training analyst". Faulty use of words: "trenchant" remarks are dismissed out of hand, in a context which makes it probable that the remarks were merely cutting. Endless verbal repetitions, which may be Professor Peters' fault but which should certainly have been edited out, if Schocken Books Inc had been able to spare an editor.

There are small mysteries. Anna's dog was a German shepherd called Wolf. "On Freud's seventeenth birthday, Anna Freud wrote a poem on the dog's body, had it photographed and presented Freud with the photograph as a birthday card". Now how did she do that? With an aerosol? Ronald Clark's biography of Freud comes to the rescue. The poem was attached to the dog - surely a wiser device, when you're dealing with a German shepherd.

If the translator is at fault here, it is surely Professor Peters who misleads us in describing Melanie Klein's Vienna home as being "only a few blocks - almost a stone's throw - from the Freud's apartment". As the stone throws, Ticker

### James Fenton on a biography of Freud's youngest child, Anna, who also became a world-famous psycho-analyst

ANNA FREUD  
A Life for Children  
By Uwe Henrik Peters  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £16.95

Graben is the best part of a kilometre away from the Bergasse, at least ten blocks and you have to cross the Ring. But then the Professor has seven league boots. He describes London as "nearby" Vienna.

And he means it. London is "only a few minutes' flying time from the German cultural sphere", the sphere which Anna and her father left in 1938 as the Nazis cracked down on psychoanalysis and Jews. The serious and in a sense personal ambition of this book is to reclaim the memory and reputation of Anna Freud for the German public for whom she is, as Professor Peters tells us, a somewhat remote figure, and for whom her work after 1938 is obscure. The biographer, who was a child during the war, could hardly

have had a more discouraging first meeting with his subject. She looked him over from head to toe and said: "you look like an SS man". But Professor Peters was not utterly discouraged, or does not show it. He says instead: "Anna Freud's customary frankness is evident in these surprising words. Interestingly, what appeared to be an expression of distrust was at the same time the introduction to lengthy and candid talks".

Anna's fierceness paid off. The biography contains I think only one mild criticism of its subject (that she sometimes misplaced her trust - meaning I suppose that she shouldn't have let Jeffrey Masson anywhere near the Freud archive), and devotes much space to the exhortation of her enemies or not-quite-faithful friends. Professor Peters is quick to detect an insult. So we must not call Anna "the incarnate heir of the psychoanalytic movement" since this "would imply a disregard of her own outstanding achievements". I can't see the logic of this, but once again the translation may be at fault, surely it is her supporters who would say that she "inherited Freud's mantle", or some such phrase. Even perhaps "her incarnate".

As for the independent achievement: "Her own creation was a psychoanalysis for children", says the book, meaning that "psychoanalysis for children was her own creation". And this brings us to the crux of the matter, as Professor Peters sees it: if Anna Freud, then not Melanie Klein, this is a fighting book, in which the affront offered to



Anna Freud - especially interested in children's problems

Freud's daughter by the Kleinian movement has been neither forgiven nor forgotten.

Psychoanalysis is supposed to be a healing art rather than a weapon. When surgeons gather for a conference, one imagines that they leave their scalpels in the cloakroom. When analysts gather, there is apparently no provision for this. An angry or obnoxious analyst has plenty of lethal tools at his disposal, and when one thinks how any group of analysts will be linked by a very complicated set of personal and professional ties (and it will be hard to tell the two apart) one can guess that the opportunity to wound may sometimes be irresistible.

The charge that Professor Peters makes concerns a 1927 symposium held in London, dominated by Klein and her supporters, who were egged on by Ernest Jones. The implication of certain remarks made by Klein and Ella Sharpe was that Anna Freud's approach to child analysis was vitiated by the fact that she herself had been insufficiently analysed (because her training analyst was her father). According to Sharpe: "In the insufficiently analysed analyst, as in the child, a deeply marred superego, condemnatory of sexuality, is at work." You can see how this might wound. Anna had never married, and there is hardly any suggestion of romance throughout this whole study. In plain language, Klein and her supporters are supposed to have been saying: Your child analysis is up the spout because you're in love with your dad and unable to face the fact.

The attack was furive, and if Professor Peters is right it was also hypocritical, since in recommending

the superiority of her own approach to child analysis Klein had omitted to mention that the first child she had analysed was her son. She was claiming that she, Klein, could get at the Oedipus complex in a male child, while Anna Freud said this was impossible. But, according to Klein's own logic, her clinical evidence was cooked.

I have checked these charges against the account of Klein given by Hannah Segal, but unfortunately Professor Peters' book appeared in Germany in the same year as Segal's monograph (so Peters is six years out of date in saying here that there is no biography of Klein - another sloppiness). Segal describes the symposium and the later rifts in the London analytical world. From her you get the impression that in the end it was sorted out fairly amicably, and that the divisions within the association were accommodated in a gentlemanly way. From Peters you do not get this impression, but I have to say that I find Peters a little naive.

Anna Freud, we are told, never defended herself. Had she done so, "a schism between continental European and English psychoanalysis would have been inevitable. In any case, time worked, even if very slowly, in Anna Freud's favour. As always, she accepted personal injury as simply an important and regular part of life's experience." But of course Anna Freud defended herself. Here she is, through the medium of Professor Peters (and I can't believe he is the first such medium), fighting manfully in her own defence. When she told Professor Peters he looked like an SS man, what she was saying was: "Either adore me utterly or get out". But if he turned his back on Anna Freud, that would mean that he was, indeed, an SS man.

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## Cricketing gents and tragic cherubs

Alan Gibson

GUBBY ALLEN: MAN OF CRICKET  
By E. W. Swanton  
Hutchinson/Stapley Paul, £12.95

PERCY CHAPMAN: A BIOGRAPHY  
By David Lemmon  
Queen Anne Press, £9.95

We have recently had biographies of two English cricket captains, G. O. B. Allen and A. P. F. Chapman. They were contemporaries (Chapman was born in 1900, Allen in 1902), though Chapman's Test career came first. They overlapped in the England side only once, when Allen played under Chapman in the famous Test against Australia at Lord's in 1930. They were both amateurs, as England captains had to be in those days, and the amount they could play was limited by business demands. They were both Cambridge men. Chapman had the better record as a captain. He actually won nine Tests consecutively, including six against Australia. Allen has made the greater contribution to the game, especially in its higher counsels. He was president of MCC in 1963. Chapman won in Australia 4-1, and did not play in the defeat. Allen lost 3-2, after being two up.

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**ROBERT HALE**

E. W. Swanton, an old friend, has written a detailed, urbane life of Allen. He was one of the best all-rounders of the 1930s, and one of the fastest bowlers. His figures would have been able to play regularly, but quite apart from business claims, perhaps the daily grind of the county circuit was not his idea of the happiest life. He was good enough to be chosen for England even when out of regular practice. Although an enthusiastic player as you could wish, he was not of the win-at-all-costs school. When in Australia under Jardine, he refused to bowl body-line, at some risk to his place in the side. This was possibly not altogether a disadvantage to him, for the batsmen may have been inclined to take risks when they could get away from the bouncers of Larwood and Voce. But Allen's career stands as a model of good gentlemanly sportsmanship.

David Lemmon had a more complicated task with Chapman. Indeed, he had to deal with the stuff of tragedy. In his youth, Chapman was a left-handed batsman of unequalled potential. Comparisons with his test team-mate Woolley did not seem out of place.

As he grew older his batting genius flamed only intermittently, though he remained one of the outstanding fieldsmen of his time. The young Chapman was frequently compared to a Greek god, though it was not a particularly apt analogy; an outside chervil would have been nearer the mark, increasingly outside as he grew older. He was employed by a brewery, which was generous in giving him time off for cricket. He died, aged 61, an alcoholic. His popularity, immense when he regained the Ashes at the Oval in 1926, dwindled, and in later life he became an embarrassment to his friends. Mr Lemmon tells this harrowing story clearly and fairly, though as a book it does sometimes get cluttered up with superfluous statistics.

Chapman, like Allen, enjoyed winning, but not at any price. Indeed, he was often criticized for recklessness in his batting, but that was his way, and part of his appeal. In that Lord's Test of 1930 he made 121 at a time when England looked out of it. He went for everything; but England lost a match which they might have saved with a touch more caution. For the last Test of that series he was dropped. There was uproar, and it does seem an odd decision in retrospect, but Chapman lost some sympathy by unwise comments in the press. His judgement was already becoming uncertain.

The Constable Cricket Classics series have been launched with a re-issue of *Australia 55* by Alan Ross, (Constable, £8.95) which gives us a picture of a captain of quite another kind, Sir Leonard Hutton. It was a pleasure to read this elegantly written book again: few tour books can be read with satisfaction more than once unless they transcend the cricket. This does. I hope Constable also have Ross's *Cape Summer* on their list.

Anyone with the slightest experience of the great Sahara desert is baffled by its French connection. Until the discovery of oil beneath those wastes it was a pointless place, a wilderness whose occasional oases yielded no more than subsistence to a handful of nomads. Why on earth would any European power have wished to claim it as empire? The question might be asked of the Italians as well, with their holdings in arid Libya, after 1911.

In this account of *la mission civilisatrice* in those parts, Douglas Porch reckons that French colonialism everywhere was invariably military (in contrast to the British variety, which was generally mercantile). The bully boys from St Cyr launched themselves at the Sahara partly in a spirit of "me too" after the British and the Germans had stayed to carve up Africa; but the most profound impulse, according to Porch, was the humiliation of

## Desert sand & the French connection

Geoffrey Moorhouse

THE CONQUEST OF THE SAHARA  
By Douglas Porch  
Cape, £15

French arms at Sedan in 1870. In other words, the Western Sahara was conquered mostly because French soldiers needed to restore their prestige, and this looked as if it might be the pushover that Bismarck's Prussians decidedly hadn't been.

The Sahara was anything but an easy victory, however. The Flatters mission of 1880 from Constantine in the North was almost wiped out by Tuareg, and its remnant only survived retreat across the desert by

resorting to cannibalism. The Bonnier mission of 1893 from Senegal was also smashed before reaching its objective of Timbuktu. Both expeditions were part of a drive to put a railway across the Sahara, in the naive belief that colonies would spring up.

By the time the daftness of this plan was conceded, the military had their footholds on the perimeters of the desert; and Porch argues that Algeria today has more of the Sahara than either Morocco or Tunisia because the French colonial troops based there were more aggressive than their comrades stationed elsewhere. It was from Biskra that Lamy's expedition crossed 1,800 miles of desert towards Chad, losing 400 out of 1,000 camels in the process. It

was from Temassinin that Theodore Poin developed the strategy of the Saharians, the light camel corps which raided swiftly, in the manner of the Tuareg themselves, to pacify the interior under Poin's successor Laperriere. They at last sealed French supremacy over these nomads in 1902, at the memorably piquant Battle of Tit.

Douglas Porch tells all this with verve and great attention to detail, though there are two surprising omissions. That part of the desert which became Mauritania is inexplicably neglected. And although the author well conveys the sensations of the Sahara by extensive reference to the writings of travellers there, myself included, he strangely misses the work of Theodore Monod, who has more authority on the subject than any other half dozen of us put together. The publisher has rather more to answer for. The price is outrageous for a book without illustration apart from a solitary, inadequate, map.

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## BOOKS II

### Dowdy feminist, Guardian angel

Fiona MacCarthy

**BEFORE I GO**  
Reflections on my life and times  
By Mary Stott  
112 pp, £9.95 (hbk), £4.50 (pbk)

Has there ever been a page in the history of journalism so suffused with its editor's distinctive personality as was the *Guardian* women's page throughout the 1960s? That editor, of course, was Mary Stott, friend of housebound housewives, progenitor (not, please, progenitress) of pre-school playgroups, campaigner for the rights of single women looking after old dependents, and tireless supporter of a dozen other causes closely connected with women's liberation which made the *Guardian* women's page in those days such an object of both admiration and satire.

Her very stimulating book of thoughts and views and reminiscences gives us many chances to relive those heady years of feminist campaigning. (Through some of which I worked, in fact, as Mary Stott's assistant, in a role roughly akin to that of valet to Lord Kitchener.)

Mary Stott, as an editor, was absolutely credible because she was professional. Having taken the tough way up through the provincial newspapers she was as experienced a technician, and knew as much of journalistic nuts and bolts, as her colleagues. In a world in which, overtly or implicitly, the law of the casting director's couch prevails, this was of course unusual, and she is most amusing on the topic of sexual harassment (or lack of it) in the higher echelons of *Guardian* editorial.

As a feminist she has always been

a gradualist, a constitutionalist, believing firmly that if they conduct themselves with dignity and wisdom women, in the end, cannot fail to be convincing. In her retirement, widowed, living in London, she has become very much a public spokesman (not "spokeswoman", not "spokesperson") from the rational traditional middle ground of feminism, the lobby for co-operation rather than castration. She has the first-things-first philosophy of true campaigning, finding it convenient to buy her clothes at Oxfam, and describes herself endearingly as going on a Women's International Day march in very dowdy long black coat, black hat and boots.

Mary being Mary she is keen on euthanasia. She is a life (sic) member and indeed Vice President of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society and, near at hand at Oxfam, keeps her own Guide to Self-Deliverance. On the basis of this book such precautions are premature. At 76 she still has a long campaign to fight against the automatic writing-off of oldish people. Her book has all the virtues of strength, clarity and tolerance which (wrongly) we associate with those of half her age.

Illywhacker? You know, quondam spicer, ripper, man. Colloquial Australian a little rusty perhaps? Oh, all right, then, it means professional trickster or conman. Herbert Badgery is 139. Or so he tells us. Trouble is, Herbert's such a terrible liar. It's been the *sine qua non* of a career which has ranged from pioneer aviator, via car salesman, to the more esoteric callings of gold prospector and snake dancer's assistant. Whether he was really any more of an illywhacker than thousands of other young Australians eager to make their way in the world during the slump is open to debate. Herbert actually comes over as a much nicer man than he's prepared to admit - a lover rather than a fighter, but above all the sort of cobbler to whom things happen.

This allows his creator to fill us in on some of the less well documented episodes in twentieth-century Australian history. Such as? Well, no, this is not the way to approach Peter Carey's extraordinary second novel. Like its predecessor, the ecstatically received *Bliss*, *Illywhacker* is not an easy book to describe, still less to summarize. Imagine, if you can, a cross between *Tristram Shandy* and Thomas Pynchon's *V*, a family saga that keeps plunging off into fantasy, a compendium of colonial vignettes which alternate between social history and science-fiction, insert the resulting hybrid into a hessian bag (in Herbert's view the most useful piece of equipment a man can possess) with a small menagerie of emus, goannas and above all the deadly snakes which keep interrupting the precarious narrative thread of *Illywhacker*, and you may get some idea of the book's sheer improbability. To read it is to be bewildered, albeit most agreeably.

### Aussie conmen, Tuscan trendies

FICTION

John Nicholson

**ILLYWHACKER**

By Peter Carey

Faber & Faber, £9.95

**THE ITALIAN LESSON**

By Janice Elliott

Hodder & Stoughton, £3.95

**THE GUEST HOUSE**

By Peter de Polnay

W. H. Allen, £9.95

**DUNN'S CONUNDRUM**

By Stan Lee

Michael Joseph, £9.95

Peter Carey is a real original, a master of literary hocus pocus. I dread to think what he will conjure up next.

Janice Elliott is another writer with a convincing line in magic, or at least in the force of coincidence. But not for her the cosy coincidences which make David Lodge's *Small World* such a charming spot. You know that the series of bizarre

events which follow William and Fanny Farmer's arrival in Tuscany with their trendy friends Jay and Lisa is going to end in tears. You can conjecture all you will. If only Fanny hadn't stopped to answer the fragile wail at Florence airport, or William had managed to flick off the hornet before it stung him. Perhaps if the weather had been kinder, or the company at San Salvatore a little less precious...

But no. When a writer as resourceful as Janice Elliott takes it into her head to demonstrate the fickleness of fate, all her characters can do is put their heads in their hands and wait for the thunderbolts to strike. Miss Elliott's admirers will not need to be told that she has a genius for unsettling her readers too.

Peter de Polnay has been turning out well-made, traditional novels for half a century. The *Guest House* is set in Paris. It describes a young Englishman's efforts to rid himself of the guilt he feels at being a murderer's son. An old-fashioned theme, but stylishly worked with due attention paid to the classic literary virtues of setting and character.

Stan Lee is at the end of a literary career. In fact *Dunn's Conundrum* is his first novel, and a remarkable tour de force it is. Harry Dunn runs The Library, the Intelligence Agency to end all such, where the need to know principle has been supplanted by the need to know everything. Thanks to the miracles of Information Technology, for the first time the left hand of government knows what the right hand is doing, with predictably dire consequences for the rest of us. This is a tightly constructed, witty-thriller, good on technical detail and gripping until, well, almost the end.

### Rogue scientists, naughty neutrons

SCIENCE FICTION

Tom Hutchinson

**THE PEACE MACHINE**

By Bob Shaw

Gollancz, £7.95

Ballard's "Report On An Unidentified Space Station". Sans characters, apart from the narrator, there is a serene profundity about it that haunts the mind.

Men, Martians And Machines, by Eric Frank Russell (*Robson*, £5.95). A hugely welcome revival for the new reasonably-priced Classics Of Modern Science Fiction: a star-trekking adventure in a lop-sided universe by one of the great names in space-operatics who matched thrills with humour.

Nine Tomorrows, by Isaac Asimov (*Gollancz*, £3.95). How does Dr Asimov do it? Still they keep coming, even if they are only reprints. But the invention never flags, the ideas still glitter. We should slap a preservation order on him immediately - before Higher Intelligences claim him.

### After Franco, the reign in Spain

Richard Wigg

**THE TRANSFORMATION OF SPAIN FROM FRANCO TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY**  
By David Gilmour  
Quercus, £12.95

Now Spain has finally been granted a place in an enlarged Common Market, David Gilmour's account of exactly how one of the most encouraging democratic transformations undergone by a European nation in modern times was achieved is particularly welcome.

He lays it all out clearly, with a conspicuously wide range of fair judgements, hitting now at the left and then at the right, and punctuating a lot of platitudes and comforting lies cultivated by differing sections of Spanish society.

Franco's regime, he says right at the beginning of the book, survived for so long "because a determined minority wanted it to survive, because a larger group of people were not prepared to fight another Civil War to overthrow it, and because the rest of the population was either coerced into accepting it or else prevented from doing anything that could conceivably be regarded as a threat to its existence".

Gilmour is good in the historical opening chapters, bringing out how the Franco regime had outlived its time, and how the middle classes wanted to put something more European in its place, and yet conserve the economic gains they had made.

The kernel of the book is of course the explanation of how Senor Adolfo Suarez, a former top official of the Francoite *Movimiento* chosen by the newly installed King, Don Juan Carlos I, at the bidding, Gilmour holds, of Torquato Fernandez Miranda, President of the Cortes and of the Council of the Realm, ushered in the democratic process.



Two Spanish eyes. Juan Carlos (right) with Premier Suarez.

It was a major act of statesmanship, and quite if you like, and the book captures well all the main elements in the process. He has read very widely, extracting the vital essence from the often meandering memoirs of some of the participants.

The trouble comes over Gilmour's treatment of the two main figures, the King and especially of Adolfo Suarez himself. He does not give us the colour and feel of these two personalities. The analysis of Suarez's achievement is decidedly cool. We are thus quite unprepared for the judgement in the book's epilogue: "He accomplished more than any other Prime Minister in the history of Spain."

Gilmour relies heavily on the accounts of the transition by Jose Maria de Arellano, the former Foreign Minister, and Alfonso Osorio, one-time close associate of Suarez in government. He also uses what he admits is a hostile biography, a picture of Suarez others would describe as the vademecum of nostalgic right-wingers who can never forgive Suarez his "betrayal".

So far as the eye can tell, Gilmour did not obtain Suarez's own account of the transition. The former Prime Minister is notoriously difficult for journalists to see, but Senor Suarez has given his account, notable at an Ortega y Gasset Foundation Seminar. It is a pity Gilmour does not give in the book his judgment on the Suarez version which, naturally, in various aspects may be self-serving.

Gilmour admits Suarez is "a very modern politician," in fact, his consummate use of television in the two general elections he won. But the picture he draws of the former premier is unflattering. Gilmour apparently never experienced, or certainly never succumbs to, Suarez's great charm, at personal level, on the box, or addressing political meetings. Now he is in a strange political wilderness. One must, in contrast, emphasize the Spanish people's warmly expressed gratitude to Adolfo Suarez for all he did for them.

Woodward reports without moral judgement, presumably hoping that the facts will speak for themselves. But the important ones are smothered under a massive weight of documentary ephemera.

### Fused

George Brock

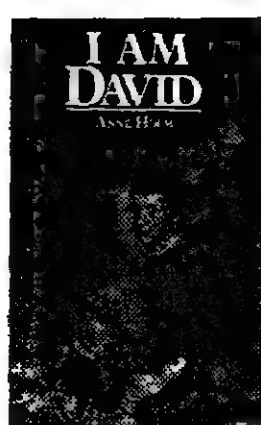
**WIRED**  
The Short Life and Fast Times of John Belushi

By Bob Woodward  
Pp. 172, £5

John Belushi specializes in playing paddy, adiabatic slots in the film that followed a rapid rise through comedy clubs and television. The fictional characters were an improvement on reality. In private life, Belushi manipulated, abused and ripped off his friends, he dissolved his talent as a calculating, subtle of hero, cocaine and pills. After his death at the age of 33, Woodward, dozen of Washington's journalist detectives, set out to tell his decline and fall.

The most powerful and repulsive lesson of the story is that there were no limits to the

# We recommend warriors, villains and bogeymen as ideal company for your children.



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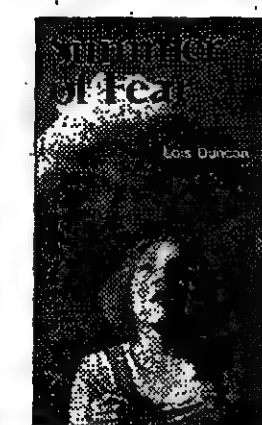
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# WHSMITH



## THE TIMES DIARY

### Hammer in reverse

Unthinkable as it sounds, the upper crust staff of Sotheby's, who have long been paid in peanuts and prestige, are meeting next week to consider setting up a trade union. Alfred Taubman, who said during his £87 million takeover two years ago that "buying Sotheby's is like buying the throne", is reported to be incandescent with rage. The staff, who fear Taubman will step on their plans before they meet next Thursday, will not do anything so illiberal as to submit to the embrace of Clive Jenkins and his white-collar ASTMS. Instead they will form their own union, concealing it under the euphemism of the Society of Sotheby's Art Operatives. Meanwhile, supporters of the proposed union are being condemned by Sotheby's directors, one of whom was heard to remark yesterday "I never knew you were a traitor to this company... it is a matter of honour". Yesterday Sotheby's managing director, Tim Llewellyn, said he was unaware of the union plans.

### Close book

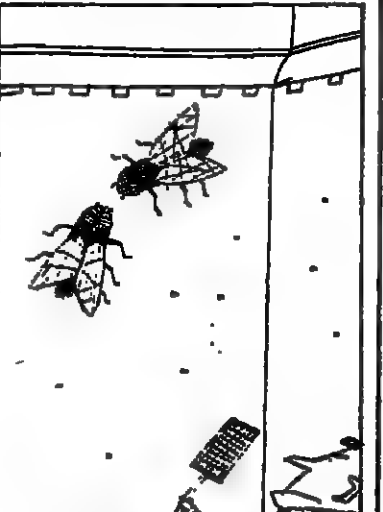
The Speaker, Bernard Weatherill, went down with mumps yesterday - caught, he believes, from his grandchildren over Easter. Princess Margaret, who sat beside him at the Windsor banquet for the President of Malawi the night before, has had it already, otherwise her trip to Hungary, which begins today, might have been suddenly cut short. At Westminster, MPs have opened an unofficial book on which of their colleagues will be the first to pay the penalty for ingratiating themselves with the unwell Speaker. Hot favourite is Peter Bruvel, closely followed by Edwina Currie.

● An important recommendation from the Department of the Environment grants working group. The amount spent by councils on cemeteries and crematoria should be calculated not per head of living population as at present, it says, but by the number who die. This is "felt to provide an improved measure of demand".

### Enemy within

I doubt that Labour Party HQ is too thrilled by the recruitment efforts of Stoney Labour party. The Holy Trinity ward has issued a leaflet depicting Peter Shore, Stoney's Labour MP, Neil Kinnock and TUC chief Norman Willis stabbing a miner in the back beside the words "Fight the Traitors - Join the Labour Party". Not a word about fighting the Tories.

BARRY FANTONI



"I've had a terrible day, first the space shuttle, then President Banda."

### Write wing

It looks as if that great American institution *Mad* is giving aid and succour to Nicaragua's Sandinista regime. Vice-president Sergio Ramirez, best known as a novelist before the 1979 revolution, is boasting that he has just been paid \$4,000 for a short story in the April edition of the *Mad* magazine. The title of the "militarily-orientated" piece: *Even Charles* (Itas Dies).

● After reading an account yesterday of how his father, Lord Cambridge lost a leg at Waterloo, the Marquess of Anglesey told the British Orthopaedic Association of an earlier response. "What a pity. Which platform?"

### The keys affair

Shades of Goldilocks at the Commons. Police are investigating the unauthorized use of MPs' type-writers during the Easter break. One offender, allegedly a member of the raucous Federation of Conservative Students, was sufficiently stupid to leave his name on the ribbon of the machine of Tory MP David Knox. As a report was being prepared for Tory whips yesterday, another Tory MP's secretary - too afraid to see her name in print - had also found her machine tampered with. All this just weeks after a select committee urged tighter security in the Commons.

### Rival bidders

The selection of the new City of London police commissioner is turning into a two-horse race. Assistant commissioner Owen Kelly is assumed to be one runner. The other is David Hall, Humberstone's chief constable, currently less than popular with the local Labour-controlled police authority because of his policing of the miners' strike. He will be squeezing into top hat and tails for his final appearance before the City Court of Common Council on May 30.

P.H.S.

# 999: end this cause for alarm

by John Gunnell

During a recent visit to the West Yorkshire Fire Service the Home Secretary, Leon Brittan, indicated that he had no plans to split up either the police or fire services in the county. I asked Mr Brittan for his reasoning. I was told about the efficiency of the fire service and its central control system, which gives rapid response throughout the county, and of the insignificance of district boundaries to the protection services.

Of course, he was absolutely correct: the amalgamation of the seven former brigades in West Yorkshire brought genuine economies of scale as well as a better service. Despite this, assurances given by the Minister of State, Giles Shaw, have brought into the open serious differences between the Home Office, which expects minimal savings on the protection services, and the Department of the Environment, which has calculated on a quite different basis.

At present, the Home Office approves amounts that can be spent on the protection services before county councils consider their general budgets. These budgets must then be pruned, bearing in mind the

competing needs of all the services the councils provide and the relationship of their total spending to the rate precept. As far as the Fire Service is concerned, the final approved budget in West Yorkshire is still 26 per cent above the figure set by the Department of the Environment.

The open split among senior ministers, underlined by Lord Whitelaw's comment that there would be "a difficult problem getting the police authorities right after the metropolitan counties are over", makes public the private views of senior Home Office officials. They did not want this legislation and are not prepared to have their level of service determined by the Department of the Environment. Lord Whitelaw, however, takes the argument from the purely financial to the more sensitive area of political responsibilities and control. Are joint boards likely to offer a sensitive, reliable, responsible mechanism for supplying key services?

Shortly after becoming leader of West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council I was involved in a series of high-level discussions on the "fall-out" from the Yorkshire Ripper. Later, in the House of Commons, Whitelaw publicly praised the handling of the matter and, although subsequent events have provided disappointments, the role of the police authority has never been criticized. Indeed it is to its credit that the computer systems in West Yorkshire are more effective than anywhere else in the country - its role in the arrest of the "Fox" has been acknowledged widely within the police force.

Can a joint board, lacking the confidence and authority of direct elections, be as effective? And given that the district councils will continue to put their most able members on services they control rather than share, will the members of police authorities be as capable as at present? Lord Whitelaw highlights a genuine problem of great importance, even to this government.

After the Home Secretary had explained his reasons for wishing to retain the protection services on a county-wide basis, I asked him to which metropolitan county services his own arguments did not apply. He told me that he had studied no others in detail. It is a pity, because had he done so he would have found that the same arguments apply to them all, and that the only way of ensuring local rather than central control of strategic county services is through a directly elected county council.

Senior officials in other departments responsible for the services provided by the metropolitan county councils all share the view that the legislation proposing their abolition is entirely political and will be a nightmare in practice. Is it too much to expect that their ministers will explore the doubts in private which Lord Whitelaw and the Home Office are expressing in public? There is still time to abort this legislative nonsense with dignity, but very little time indeed.

The author is leader of West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council.

Michael Ignatieff charts the convergence of left and right in French politics

## Cherchez la difference



Something perplexing but important is happening to French political thought. Parties of the left and right are struggling to bring their language of political appeal into alignment with the reality of a France less sure of its place in the world than ever before.

The signs of this crisis of self-confidence are like straws in the wind, but they add up to a fear that in the economy a rigid, privilege-ridden structure is proving unable to adapt to the American and Japanese challenge. Economic essayist Alain Minc recently compared present-day France to eighteenth-century Amsterdam, which faded into genteel economic decline in the face of rising British power. He wondered aloud whether the frontier of the world economy might not be shifting inexorably towards the Pacific rim countries, leaving Europe a dusty museum for American and Japanese tourists.

If the awakening of the French to Europe's relative economic decline has been slower than in Britain it is because the strong growth of the de Gaulle and Pompidou eras hid French weaknesses in new technology. The political rhetoric of de Gaulle's successors is now focused almost exclusively on the task of re-establishing that golden era.

All the major party leaders - Jacques Chirac, Raymond Barre, Giscard d'Estaing and Francois Mitterrand - have taken up the rhetoric of modernization and are putting stress on words which ring strangely in French ears: entrepreneurship, marketing and management.

The parties of the right find it difficult to square the new neo-Renaissance with their Gaullist heritage of state intervention in the economy, while socialist militants resist their leaders' embrace of market principles. The electorate seems puzzled and disenchanted by political adversaries whose opposing battle cries muffle the real convergence of their views.

The new climate affects cultural self-confidence too. The collapse of Marxism - the matrix of most post-war French social thought - coupled with the knowledge that the rhetoric of modernization is an American import has led to a sense that French culture is no longer producing a political language adequate to its own realities. Didier Mouchane, the left-wing socialist intellectual now out of favour with the Mitterrand government, has written acerbically that he sees no reason why French socialism should preside over the modernization of French capitalism.

Yet because the intellectual standing of Marxism is so low, and because most critics on the left do not want to be seen giving comfort to the right, Mouchane has been unable to attract much of a following for his critique of the Socialist government's policies. Hence an embarrassed silence on the left has greeted Mitterrand's pragmatic embrace of modernization.

In any event there is no one on the French intellectual scene capable of leading a public debate on the transformation of French political argument. The deaths of Raymond Aron, Roland Barthes, Michel Foucault, Jacques Lacan and Jean Paul Sartre have left a void which remains unfilled.

The Mitterrand government's twists and turns in office have scarcely comforted those looking for socialist consistency. In the first two years, its policy had autarchic features: on the economic front, an attempt to go it alone with domestic relations; on the cultural front, a policy designed to curtail foreign media penetration, especially from America. Within a short time pressure on the franc, a worsening trade deficit and a declining competitive position forced the government to bring its policies in line with the economic austerity practised in America and Britain.

The result has been the break-up of the Socialist-Communist alliance and a growing conviction among militants and intellectuals that French socialism is socialist only in name.

At the same time, as the philosopher Andre Glucksmann and the sociologist Alain Touraine have pointed out, the government's policies of modernization have effectively destroyed the industrial and social base of socialism itself. Closing down the Lorraine steel works, running down the coal industry and putting the Le Creusot manufacturing region into mothballs may be making French industry more competitive but it is also destroying the workers' movement which provided socialist tradition with its massed battalions.

It is a significant indication of the different attitudes of French and British socialists towards deindustrialization that French socialists

saw the British miners' strike as a failure to look the facts of European economic life in the eye.

With no specifically socialist policies to distinguish it from its right-wing rivals and with its electoral base eroding, the Mitterrand government increasingly appeals to voters in the language of republicanism. *Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite* has become the party's rallying cry. Republicanism is an acceptable form of nationalism for socialists. Like Mrs Thatcher and Mr Reagan, Mitterrand understands the party advantage of patriotic sentiment.

Yet in the French case this move has its ironies. Throughout the de Gaulle era, Mitterrand opposed the republican constitution on the grounds that it gave the general too much power. After four years in the Elysee he has apparently lost his scruples or his doubts. In office he has become the most monarchical of republicans.

Republicanism, however recent or inconsistent, also serves to legitimize a shift in socialist thought away from post-1968 egalitarianism towards a patriotic appeal for social discipline. The recent call by Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the education minister, for a return to stricter standards of examination and discipline is not only designed to make the school the hearth of republican patriotism in Mitterrand's France, as it was in Clemenceau's, but also to put paid to socialism's association in the public mind with the laxity of the 1960s.

Faced with a socialism shedding its traditional skin and a right wing shaking off its Gaullist enthusiasm for an all-directing state, French voters seem unable to decide whether these changes of language are cynical opportunism or a necessary mutation of vocabulary in the face of reality. A recent poll in the Paris newspaper *Liberation* revealed that more than a quarter of those sampled no longer identified themselves with either right or left, and a majority were unable to say whether the current government's policies were socialist or not.

When asked what socialism ought to stand for, those polled rejected the old socialist agenda of nationalization in favour of a much vaguer adherence to a set of values: generosity, fraternity and social justice. Socialism's dilemma in France, as elsewhere, is how to translate such values into practical policy.

Whatever else the poll may indicate, it seems to show that after 15 years of cultural and economic crisis, French voters no longer recognize themselves or their interests in the symbolic garb of French politics. They are struggling, like their politicians, to find a language which describes the troubling reality of their lives. If this is the verdict in France, it may also be true in Britain.

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## The C5, giving Sir Clive an even bumpier ride



Disappointing sales, now substantial design changes

Although Sir Clive Sinclair, the British high technology guru and pioneer of cheap home computers, has earned his place among the great inventors it is becoming obvious that his latest invention, the C5 electric trike, will not add to his reputation.

Sales of the machine have been sluggish to say the least. About 5,000 were reported to have been sold by Sinclair Vehicles through mail order in the first four weeks after its launch at the beginning of the year. Since then the company, reluctant to disclose sales figures, has suspended production for three weeks and is making plans to alter substantially some of the trike's features to gain approval for use on continental roads.

Sinclair is a dream-maker and a successful one. He can take credit for being one of the principal influences in putting thousands of computers into British homes. Since 1979, then trading through his old company Sinclair Radionics, he has invented calculators, watches, pocket televisions, home computers and now an electric vehicle.

Sinclair's dream of a computer in every home has in part been realized. An eager and sympathetic public helped him do so, making him a millionaire in the process. Other accolades followed, the most notable being a knighthood.

Somewhere along the line, however, Sir Clive has lost his public, which has not grasped his vision of the C5 as a revolution in personal transport. While hoteliers and holiday camps have been enthusi-

astic about the vehicle it is noticeably absent from the streets of Britain.

Sir Clive has blamed pessimistic press reports. The reality is that the public was promised an electric vehicle which would transform urban driving, a promise unfulfilled by the arrival of the C5.

The ordinary consumer is not alone in having doubts. City financiers are displaying a lack of confidence in the Sinclair company's performance. The British financier is very rarely a visionary. He is in the business of making money, usually in the short term. Two years ago Sinclair sold 10 per cent of his company for £13.5 million to some City institutions. The price of the shares then was £34. Now they are

worth about a third of that amount.

In public, Sir Clive remains bullish. In the middle of March he told his shareholders that his company made £7.9 million pretax profit in the first nine months of the financial year, had written off £1.3 million against post-Christmas returns of his products and another £1 million because of price reductions to boost sagging sales of his computers, for which there had been no substantial orders for about two months from mid-December.

In private Sir Clive is probably not so optimistic. The financial problems of Acorn, the maker of the BBC Microcomputer and one of Sinclair's rivals in the home computer market, have worried him. He knew that the City

financiers were frightened because of the slump in the Acorn share price. Acorn was launched on the USM (Unlisted Securities Market) two years ago for £136 million. In February the share price slid to a low of 28p, valuing the company at £30 million and precipitating a rescue bid by Olivetti. Sinclair's ambition of launching his own company on the USM was thwarted.

This will restrict his activities and other products that he has on the market may also strain his resources if they do not sell in bulk. That fact is also worrying City financiers, who have never been at ease with high technology.

First, there is the flat screen television launched 18 months ago with the promise that it would do for television what the transistor radio did for wireless. No current sales figures are officially available.

Secondly, the QL (Quantum Leap) computer sold only 50,000 last year, a disappointment to Sinclair. It is now the subject of a personalized television campaign by Sir Clive to boost sales to 200,000 this year. The price of the Spectrum + home computer has been reduced by nearly a third to £130 to sell in the quantities projected. Overstocking of computers recently caused Sinclair to slow down production for a month. He is also attempting to raise £50 million to finance the building of an advanced microchip factory. The C5 only adds to his problems.

Bill Johnstone  
Technology Correspondent

Ronald Butt

## Wanted: a new Thatcher theme

Life is much harder for the Conservatives now than there is, or appears to be, no emergency. In the last Parliament there were two great issues on which Mrs Thatcher gained public support for an austerity programme frightening to Conservative politicians accustomed to winning elections by bread-and-circuses public spending.

The first was the need to defeat inflation at a level frightening to every family in the land. This was so clearly perceived to be vital that, despite rising unemployment, Mrs Thatcher was able to brush aside Tory demands for more public spending designed to create jobs with the valid reply that this had been tried before with no better long-term result than job-destroying inflation. The public knew this was true and accepted austerity in the belief that, as the Government hoped, the fall of inflation would automatically bring a fall in unemployment.

The second great issue was the need not to capitulate again to the demands of unpopular trade unions, which had for so long held to ransom the nation's real living standards, and to try to make union leaders more democratically responsive to their members. Again the Government had public support. Like Mrs Thatcher, the public saw no merit in a replay of attempts to buy union support for incomes policies with political Danegeld.

So Mrs Thatcher won her second term. Her courage over the Falklands had confirmed public respect for her leadership, but it was her invitation to the people through her first term to face what they knew to be the facts behind Britain's social and economic malaise that was the firm basis of her second victory.

Now, however, inflation is down to 5 per cent, but unemployment has not fallen with it. The Chancellor has produced a budget for job creation by fiscal change, but there is much scepticism about the time it will take to be effective.

Nor is unemployment the Government's only difficulty. There have been long and apparently unproductive arguments over rates and local government and the Tory party looks somewhat at odds with itself. While one section of the party would like the Government to tackle the jobs problem more by direct spending than fiscal means, another is disturbed by its undertakings to preserve tax exemptions on pensions and mortgages. They argue that the Government has come to a halt in its policy of getting rid of tax distortions to produce the fiscal neutrality needed for jobs.

Such tensions in the party, and the feeling of lost momentum could be damaging to public confidence in the Government, particularly now that Labour is presenting a more plausible facade by suppressing its left-right tensions and policy incoherence. Now that the emergency of the coal strike is over (thanks to the Government's firmness) Labour has already taken the lead in the opinion polls. By the slippage of support to the Alliance (particularly from those easily persuaded that the Government's politics are "confrontation-

ary") Labour could be let in and the Thatcher achievements destroyed. It is a curious situation. Life is now more difficult for the Tories precisely because there is no national emergency and because of the Government's past success. But there are always two ways of looking at the same facts, and Mrs Thatcher herself sees these facts differently.

To her, the country's problems are a vast seamless robe of smaller (she would strongly resist the word "minor") questions which all add up to the lack of the sensible enterprise society which is her aim.

There are the teachers who resist assessment of their performance and who do not adequately regard themselves as serving the public, thus impeding the creation of a proper job structure; the next year, a contract of service will have to be drawn up. There are the universities which resist economic rationalization. There are the chairmen and directors of great public companies who give themselves huge pay rises, oblivious of the need to lead by example. There are also the people in the City who charge too much for their services - merchant bankers overcharging on new share issues and brokers asking too much commission.

Mrs Thatcher has not forgotten that the Heath government lost office not only because of public distaste for the easy money fortunes and property boom of that period. She dislikes the British preference for going into money-making by money-dealing instead of getting job-creating small businesses going, and being willing to risk failure and starting again, as in America. Above all, however, is the refusal of unions to accept that union costs are the key to job resistance to a proper differential between low pay and living on benefits. To all these things she would add the blockages which get in the way of taking the right decisions quickly: Stansfeld and Sizewell being examples.

Whatever all this adds up to, it is hardly the confrontational politics of which the likes of Bishop Jenkins rebuke the Government - though it is a pragmatic confrontation with a wide range of disparate vested interests. Besides, though Mrs Thatcher is a force for the market she does not allow it doctrinal precedence over everything. That is why she has pledged herself to maintain tax relief on mortgages, to her matrimonial home is the strongest thing in a free society.

One of Mrs Thatcher's most engaging characteristics is her urge to give straightforward and detailed answers to a wide range of individual questions instead of reaching for easy generalizations. Even so, she is left with a problem of communications. How in the next phase is she to get across convincingly her priorities and her idea of an enterprise society? If she is to succeed in ensuring that the Labour Party, constituted as it now is, never governs again, she has to convey to the electorate as clear a sense of direction and priorities for the rest of this Parliament as she conveyed in the last.

moreover... Miles Kington

## Stylish, but no Jett-setter

I had never come across the name Letitia G. Jett until quite recently - half an hour ago, in fact, when I opened my *Herald Tribune* and found a fascinating article by her on the two things in which Letitia G. Jett specializes, fashion and lifestyle. The great Quentin Crisp has always said, and I believe he's right, that the two things are what you adopt when you know who you are, and you stick to it for ever: fashion is what you go for when you don't know who you are, or what you want, so you adopt what other people are wearing or eating.

My lifestyle tends to be based on spending too much money in bookshops, so my cooking goes the same way. At the moment I'm hooked on *The Apple Book* by Jane Simpson and Gill MacLennan, turning out things like haddock, cider and apple soup or home-made sausages with pork, apple and herbs. recipe book and apple soup, which I cut out of the *Manchester Evening News* in 1980, and which I consider one of the all-time great soups.

Sooner or later, I suppose, I shall move on to *Delicious Food*, a secondhand 1956 book with an introduction by Noel Coward which I bought the other day. At the moment I'm just rereading the intro, picking up hints on style, but I'll move on to the recipes soon.

My drinking at the moment is dictated by another secondhand book, *Cocktail Fashions* of 1936, which I bought a week ago. It contains such oddities as Yeast Cocktail and Piccadilly Square Cocktail (which shows that it is an American book; show me Piccadilly Square and I'll show you Times Circus). When I say that it dictates my drinking, I mean that I've virtually stopped drinking and gone over to reading the book instead. In fact, most of my cooking sessions with cooking fitted in at the last moment. If you see me deep in a book, as I'm busy cooking.

It'll never be fashionable, but it makes a very comfortable lifestyle. The only snag is that I'm a rotten cook, so I just hand out cookbooks to the guests to read when they arrive. If there are any very special guests, I let them look at my cuttings from the *Manchester Evening News*.

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# THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	1985 Close	1985 Div	1985 P.E.
1	UEI	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
2	Unilever	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
3	British Telecom	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
4	Ferranti	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
5	Lee Riegan	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
6	Blit	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
7	Plessey	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
8	Amstar	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
9	Crucible	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
10	Forward Tech	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
11	FOOTUS	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
12	Utd Bencan	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
13	Island France	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
14	April	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
15	Beyan	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
16	Bolton Mac	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
17	Stim Foods	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
18	Ungate	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
19	Kendall & Paton	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
20	Tate & Lyle	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
21	Glass Oliver	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
22	INDUSTRIAL E-K	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
23	Highgate & Job	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
24	Ingall Ind	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
25	European Ferro	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
26	Forrester Ind	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
27	Granda	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
28	Jackman D & H	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
29	Ed	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
30	Kalshon	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
31	Elmer (B)	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
32	Evode	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
33	Wimper (Kew)	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
34	Belway	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
35	Shaper & Fisher	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
36	Moscow (Kew)	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
37	ITA	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
38	Ed	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
39	Farmer	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
40	Countrywide	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
41	Black Johnson	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6
42	Marshall (H&H)	1.00	0.95	0.98	0.05	19.6

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

## STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

# Market firm again

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, April 26. Contango Day, April 29. Settlement Day, May 7. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chg	1985 Div	1985 P.E.
1.00	0.95	UEI	0.98	0.05	19.6	
1.00	0.95	Unilever	0.98	0.05	19.6	
1.00	0.95	British Telecom	0.98	0.05	19.6	
1.00	0.95	Ferranti	0.98	0.05	19.6	
1.00	0.95	Lee Riegan	0.98	0.05	19.6	
1.00	0.95	Blit	0.98	0.05	19.6	
1.00	0.95	Plessey	0.98	0.05	19.6	
1.00	0.95	Amstar	0.98	0.05	19.6	
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## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

## Mr Punch hits DTI with a legal nettle

By next Wednesday, the Department of Trade and Industry, in the person of either Norman Tebbit or his Parliamentary Under Secretary, Alex Fletcher, must pronounce on the request by United Newspapers for "consent in principle" to take over Fleet Holdings, the Express newspaper group.

Some commentators immediately raised a furor over the propriety of asking the DTI to take seriously what was only an intention to bid, rather than an actual bid. Lord Matthews, the chairman of Fleet, hurled back the riposte that a merger between his company and United "appears to have no merit". But he was too wise to tell Mr Tebbit how to do his job, for the Secretary of State has no discretion in the matter: it is enough for there to be a credible intention to bid for the issue to be placed before the Commission's newspaper panel.

If that was the top and bottom of it, we should surely have heard from the DTI by now. The reason we have not heard is that United, a substantial publisher of such diverse titles as the *Yorkshire Post* and *Punch*, has presented the DTI and its allied agency, the Office of Fair Trading, with a legal nettle.

Fleet, in addition to its newspaper interests, has the Morgan-Grampian magazine stable and a stake in TV-am. These fall outside the newspaper provisions of the Fair Trading Act. Indeed, they have to be considered, like any other merger of appropriate size, by the OFT, which then makes a recommendation to the DTI as to whether there should be a monopoly inquiry.

That has caused a holdup, as the DTI naturally wants to make the two announcements together. But there is a nasty consequence: there is no overlap between the regular members of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and its newspaper panel, which is headed by Lord Annan and includes Sir Alistair Burnet and four others. So Fleet and United are faced with the prospect of undergoing two separate but simultaneous inquiries, with all the duplication that will involve. Most frightening of all to the lawyers and civil servants is the precedent which will be created, in either direction. Such a situation has not hitherto arisen. The Monopolies Commission has before now contradicted itself across time, most notably over House of Fraser in recent memory. Two reports with simultaneously contradictory verdicts would outstrip the combined imaginations of George Orwell and Gilbert and Sullivan.

## After BNOC, what next?

While the dismantling of the British National Oil Corporation proceeds in a more orderly way than many oil industry people had thought possible the 30 or 40 new sellers of oil who will soon enter the market are considering how they should go about putting their oil on sale.

Therefore, the minds of the oil companies are now being turned to decide what will happen when the BNOC finally disappears in the autumn.

The leading companies will handle the bulk of North Sea output, placing it through their existing trading departments or using it in their own refineries.

But up to 40 smaller companies will enter the market, and although the volumes are small - estimated at around 200,000 barrels a day - that could create some volatility.

The idea of a new consortium oil trading company being set up to represent these smaller companies has already been

conceived, but has found little support. The independent traders operating in London could easily handle the work, but many of the smaller companies have voiced their preference for dealing with the trading operation of a larger company. The most likely to benefit would be Britoil, which has its own trading operation and is recruiting to expand. Hence, Britoil, formed out of the production and exploration assets of the original BNOC, could ironically benefit from the demise of its former parent.

Whatever system eventually emerges, the onus is now firmly on the oil companies to make sure that they do not create a situation in which prices are driven down. For that reason, the summer maintenance programmes could be extended to ease pressure on production at times of market weakness.

The smaller North Sea companies could, therefore, find themselves squeezed as the large operators of the platforms in which they have minority stakes slow production to help the free market price stay up with the official Opec price structure.

## J Rothschild goes on Tootal buying spree

Entrad's closely fought bid for Tootal, due to expire today, finally sprang to life yesterday. The Takeover Panel rapped Tootal's chairman, Alan Wagstaff, over the knuckles for premature claims of institutional support. Entrad announced that it will seek a London listing if it wins.

And, perhaps most significant of all, J. Rothschild Holdings announced that it had amassed a crucial 6.4 per cent stake in Tootal after a 10-day buying spree. Jacob Rothschild's company made it clear it had not bought for a small turn but "because we think the shares are attractive at this price" - an implicit rebuff for Entrad's final offer.

Entrad's own move to allow British investors to buy back into the enlarged group through issuing 23 per cent of the share capital to the London market might attract some institutions who want to take a profit but gain a new and bigger potential textile investment.

However, the basic issue for shareholders to decide is whether 72.5p cash per share plus the 1.87p net dividend is enough to pay for Tootal? The exit p/e ratio of over 10 times Tootal's historic earnings, excluding property profits, is generous by the textiles sector standards and the shares will undoubtedly fall back if the bid fails.

But given the growth prospects of Tootal, now the main restructuring has been done, the price still looks a little too cheap. Tootal has spent £100 million on restructuring in the past five years and is now poised for growth in the US, where the massive American Thread subsidiary has been overhauled, and in expanding markets in South East Asia.

Growth is also coming through strongly on the unbranded clothing side, where sales to Marks and Spencer have risen to £30 million against about £3 million six years ago.

Entrad has concentrated its attack on Tootal's failure to exploit its branded clothing and household furnishing. The criticism is justified, but these parts of the total group are only just over 10 per cent of turnover and efforts are being made to put in more marketing managers. Mr Wagstaff has been chairman since January 1981 and he has done a great deal of pruning that should probably have been done before. Shareholders should stay with the company.

## Output and jobs increase but King again hits at pay rises

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

Output and employment are rising while earnings increases are slowing down, according to new government figures published yesterday. But Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, said wage rises were still too high.

The output of the production industries rose 1.5 per cent in the three months to February, compared with the previous three months, and manufacturing output rose 1 per cent. But the February figures showed a slight drop in the production index from January, down from 105.2 (1980=100) to 105.0. The index for manufacturing rose from 101.3 to 102.3.

The production figures were still distorted by the miner's strike. The Central Statistical Office estimates that industrial production by about 3.5 per cent during the three months to February, even

though its figures show some recovery in coal production and increased output by other energy industries, which cast some doubt on its calculation.

Manufacturing output, which is thought to have been little affected by the coal strike, was 2.5 per cent higher in the latest three-month period than in that of a year earlier.

New estimates from the Employment Department put the increase in the employed labour force in the fourth quarter of 1984 at 142,000, including 32,000 more self-employed people. According to Mr King, this brings the total increase in two years to 600,000.

The fourth-quarter increase of 111,000 employees is made up of 117,000 more jobs in services and a loss of 6,000 jobs in other industries. Later figures suggest a further fall in manu-

facturing employment, amounting to 18,000 in January and February combined.

The underlying rate of increase in earnings throughout the economy is estimated to have fallen 7.25 per cent in the year to February, compared with 7.5 per cent since last July. But this reduction appears mainly to reflect fluctuations in bonus payments and overtime, according to the Employment Department. The underlying increase in production and manufacturing industries remained unchanged at 8.5 per cent.

Overtime in manufacturing rose slightly, to 11.95 million hours a week in February, according to further new figures from the department, but short-time working also rose, accounting for 0.44 million hours lost a week. The overall index of average weekly hours

in manufacturing rose marginally, from 102.7 (1980=100) to 102.8 in February.

Wages and salaries per unit of output in manufacturing rose 5.5 per cent in the three months to February, slightly less than the 5.8 per cent calculated from the previous month. However, Mr King claimed that unit labour costs "are significantly above those of our major competitors".

But figures recently released by his department in answer to a parliamentary question show that after adjustment for exchange rates, unit labour costs had fallen 14 per cent in Britain between 1980 and the third quarter of last year, while they had risen 47 per cent in the United States and more than 7 per cent in Japan.

The full-year employment figures for 1984 show an overall increase of 340,000.

## More losses likely, says underwriter

By Alison Eadie

Richard Beckett Underwriting Agencies, a subsidiary of Minet Holdings, has written to its 500 names on three non-marine syndicates indicating that further substantial losses are likely.

The losses are a result of a wave of claims from US casualty business and relate to the years 1979 to 1982. Richard Beckett is in discussion with its auditors to try to put a figure for the likely losses. Names should know the worst in another week or so.

The agency said, in its letter, that it was unable to form any view of the 1983 and 1984 years, and impact if any on the incidental non-marine syndicate 618.

The losses, the largest of which relate to syndicates 918, are not unusual in the insurance market particularly on North American casualty business. Monett Syndicates, one of Lloyd's largest underwriting agencies, has also been hit with 3,500 names on syndicates 417/418 worst affected.

The losses at Richard Beckett have nothing to do with the previous scandals affecting the agency, when it was PCW Underwriting.

## Soft loans ban 'could kill off companies'

By John Lawless

Whole sections of Britain's core manufacturing industries could be killed off, and the existence of some major companies threatened, by the continuing battle between the Treasury and the Department of Trade and Industry over government spending on support for exporters, it was claimed yesterday.

Senior industrialists and bankers thrust the undeclared war between the two departments into the public arena with the publication of the fourth report of the Overseas Project Board (OPB).

They accused the Treasury of living in an ivory tower of pure economic theory - while Britain's major competitors are being given the support of aid and soft loans to win multi-million pound deals overseas, and tens of thousands of jobs that go with them.

The OPB is the body of businessmen appointed to advise the government on policy on projects worth £2.38 billion to Britain last year, in a shrinking market. It is chaired by Mr Ray Withers, deputy chairman of the Davy Corporation.

His OPB colleague, Mr Robert Owen, a director of Lloyds Bank International, said yesterday that in terms of Government financial support, "there are frequently cases where we are playing cricket and others are playing American football".

Mr Withers admitted that the OPB's arguments come close to saying that "the DTI is battling for Britain, but the Treasury isn't".

## BPCC gains £15m despite closures

By William Kay City Editor

Mr Robert Maxwell continued his critics once again yesterday with a sparkling set of figures from the British Printing & Communication Corporation, which is controlled by his family company, Pergamon Press. BPCC is the country's biggest printer, covering such names as Waterlow, Purnell and Odhams-Sun Printers.

The corporation's pretax profit for calendar 1984 jumped from £22 million to £37.8 million. This was despite a change in accounting policy, as a result of which closure costs of more than £4 million were charged against trading profit instead of being treated as extraordinary items. The improvement is even more marked after tax: £40.1 million compared with £9.6 million.

The extra profits were squeezed out of a £36 million turnover improvement, to £266.5 million. Earnings per share have risen from 16.3p to 29.6p and Mr Maxwell has increased the dividend commensurately, from 6p to 11p.

At 198p, up 4p yesterday, the shares are trading on a yield of 5.5 per cent and price-earnings ratio of 6.7, indicating continuing caution among investors towards the group.



Robert Maxwell: confident of profits trend in 1985

Mr Maxwell added: "Group profits for the first quarter of the current year exceed those achieved for the same period in 1984. The board is very confident of the trend in profits for 1985 and future years."

Apart from closure costs, there appear to have been enough "one-off" problems at BPCC last year to suggest that there is still plenty of scope for further recovery.

The group prints a large number of IPC's magazines, including *Woman*, *Woman's Weekly* and *Woman's Realm*, and last summer's strike there cost an estimated £1 million. Packaging profits were also hit by machine breakdowns.

## Espley fails in battle for survival

By Graham Searjeant

Espley Trust, the troubled property-based group once led by Mr Ronald Shuck, asked the Bank of Scotland to appoint a receiver yesterday after six months struggling to survive by selling off most of its assets.

Mr Gary Wakeham, the group's chief executive, confirmed that Mr Ronald Aitken, the company doctor who replaced Mr Shuck as chairman last September, dismissed him from his post as managing director and masterminded the survival plan, had himself resigned.

Espley shares were suspended on the Stock Exchange for the second time in a month in February after pressure from the trustees for loan stockholders for changes in the security on £7.4 million of loans.

Since then Espley has sold property interests in the United States and Belgium, and at the end of last month announced an agreement for £11 million of further sales (bringing the total to nearly £50 million) including Swindon-based Howard Tenens Engines.

That is not being placed in receivership, and the board said it intended to pursue the sale of Howard Tenens Engines.

IN BRIEF  
NEI cuts cost £34m

Northern Engineering Industries, manufacturers of electrical, electronic and combustion equipment for the power and communication industries, has completed a major rationalization of its key businesses, spending £34.4 million on below the line rationalization costs in 1984.

The costs included £4 million for mothballing the Gateshead nuclear systems plant, £10 million on restructuring in the US and £7 million for closing the Birmingham electric motor and generator factory.

The company now believes the costs of the restructuring have been fully provided for. North American losses were reduced significantly in 1984 and NEI's businesses there are now operating profitably. The worldwide order intake in 1984 was £700 million and the order book stood at £1.1 billion at the year end against £1.3 billion in 1983.

Pretax profits of £40.1 million were made in 1984 against £43.3 million and profits are expected to rise this year to about £47 million.

Tempus, page 23

## Rio improves

Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation, the mining and industrial group, has increased pretax profits for 1984 to £670 million, up from £575 million. Turnover rose from £4.811 million to £5.948.6 million. A final dividend of 13.5p makes 20p for the year against 18p last time.

Tempus, page 23

## RMC warning

RMC Group, the ready-mixed concrete concern, gave a warning that a sudden fall-off in West German construction activity, together with the poor weather last January and February, would mean lower profits for the first half of 1985. Last year, pretax profits rose from £71.6 million to £81.3 million. A final dividend of 8.6p, raising the total from 12p to 13p, is being recommended.

Tempus, page 23

## Scapa issue

Scapa Group, the Blackburn engineering fabrics manufacturer, yesterday launched a £20.1 million rights issue to strengthen its financial position. Shareholders are being offered one new share at 375p for every six held. The directors have estimated that pretax profits for the year to the end of March were not less than £27.3 million, an increase of £8 million.

By providing a unique liquid oxygen storage system, AGA have been instrumental in developing a revolutionary power system for submarines, enabling work to be carried out for long periods at great depths.



## Successful gas technology on every level.

The AGA Group enjoyed another successful year in 1984, with continuing investment in existing fields and an active search for involvement in new areas of gas technology. Increases of 24 per cent in income after interest and a return on capital employed of 22 per cent show the success of creative efforts and endeavours of the Group on every level.

We concentrated our efforts in those operations yielding the greatest returns for us - namely Gas and Frigoscandia.

Gas Here, our level of investment remained aggressive. We acquired important activities in Norway, and large new plants were built in Sweden and Finland. Acquisitions of other, smaller companies and strong investments in fixed assets have also contributed to our success, and give us the opportunity to pass on our significant and growing expertise in new gas applications.

Frigoscandia's operating income rose again in 1984, thanks largely to the efforts of Frigoscandia Contracting, which develops, manufactures and markets freezing equipment. This operation now has over 50 per cent of the world market - while Frigoscandia itself is the technical leader in several areas. Heavy investment in technical developments involving storage, distribution and freezing equipment, the sale of our Swiss cold store company plus a number of acquisitions - illustrate the increasingly selective strategy of the AGA Group.

AGA - Uddeholm An exciting development arose for us during 1984, with the opportunity to take a majority shareholding in Uddeholm. This financially strong company has three interesting and independent areas of activity - tool steel, international steel trading and electrical power production and distribution. Each

area is well-equipped and prepared for future development, and - in line with our decentralisation policy - Uddeholm will realise its own future potential.

New markets - new technologies Half of all today's gas applications were still undiscovered ten years ago. In this fast-moving field we are highly optimistic about the future of AGA's gas operations, and are determined to play an active role in the many and varied areas of new technology. For instance, we have pioneered computer-based safety techniques in chemical plants and have introduced a new oxygen-blasting process into the paper and pulp industry. We are also introducing new techniques for plasma welding black iron. And an advanced method of treating soft drinking water is now being marketed, as is the use of gases in the production of sophisticated electronic components.

Last but not least, we have been instrumental in developing a revolutionary new submarine power system using liquid oxygen.

Future outlook No industry has such a diversified range of customers as the gas industry, a factor that also contributes to making it one of the most insensitive to economic fluctuations. Yet with the help of our industrial gases we can increase productivity, quality and safety in most industries. Indeed, the emergence of these new application areas has formed a base from which AGA can look forward to continued interesting development trends.

Frigoscandia, for example, is the technological leader in several areas, and has significantly strengthened the company's competitive edge in recent years. All in all, the depth and breadth of AGA's resources means that we are poised for continuing success in the years to come.

1984 Results in brief  
● Income after interest items increased 21 per cent in 1984 to SEK 723 million  
● Return on capital employed before taxes rose from 20 to 22 per cent  
● Estimated profit per share amounted to SEK 34.25 (1983: SEK 30)  
● Increase in proposed dividend from SEK 10 to SEK 11 per share  
● Bonus issue and stock split proposed. Every old share to be divided into three new shares  
● Uddeholm became a subsidiary of AGA.

Consolidated Income SEK (m)		
Excluding AB Tressor		
The Uddeholm Group:		
	1984	1983
Sales	5,632	5,323
Operating expenses etc.	-4,495	-4,361
Normal depreciation	-327	-278
Operating Income	810	684
Dividends etc.	17	19
Net interest income	-104	-118
Income after interest items	723	585
Exchange rate adjustments	-9	-1
Swedish Group Companies	-	-
Foreign companies including translation	-77	-97
Non recurring items	45	-19
Income before year-end provisions and taxes	680	466

To: AGA Information, S-16181 Lidings, Sweden. Please send me a copy of your 1984 Annual Report.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Company \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
AGA

## Securities loss 'over \$500m'

Washington (Ap-Dow Jones) The chairman of the US securities and Exchange Commission, Mr John Shad, said his agency estimates that more than \$500 million of losses have been sustained by firms and institutions that dealt with ESM Government Securities Incorporated and Bevil Bresler-Schulman Asset Management Corporation, the securities dealers which collapsed recently.

In testimony prepared for the Senate Securities Subcommittee, Mr Shad made clear that this estimate is calculated before taxes, insurance and civil suit recoveries, if any.

Mr Shad told the Senate panel the commission has agreed to report its views to Congress by June 21 on possible modifications of the current regulatory scheme for the government securities market, which is largely unregulated.

Meanwhile the SEC is examining the records of up to 100 companies dealing in repurchase agreements, in an effort to identify potential problems in the market.

The SEC examinations do not include the 36 primary dealers in government securities, which trade directly with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

## Lords amendment could put back TSB float

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

The timetable for the flotation of the TSB Group on the stock market could be put back because of the unexpected setback the Government has suffered on the legislation. On Tuesday, an Alliance amendment was carried in the House of Lords excluding the Scottish TSBs from the legislation.

The flotation is planned for late this year or early next year, and those involved with the flotation were reviewing the situation yesterday.

Similar amendments excluding the Scottish TSBs had already been defeated in the

Bill's earlier stages and Tuesday's setback was being blamed in some quarters on the government whips in the Lords. The development appears to have come as a complete shock to the TSB Group and to the Bill now stands, the Scottish banks would be left in limbo because existing legislation under which they operate is being repealed.

TSB Group is likely to resist any compromise solution such as establishing a separate company for the Scottish banks with a large local shareholding.

## MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS		MAIN PRICE CHANGES		CURRENCIES	
FT Ind Ord	988.8 (+9.3)	RISES:		London:	
FT-A All Share	826.56 (+5.82)	Kalamazoo	31 +5	E: \$1.2782 (+0.0030)	
FT Govt Securities	81.58 (-0.25)	Forward Tech	29 +4	E: DM 3.6650 (+0.0050)	
FT-SE 100	1,304.0 (-12.2)	MidlandMars	105 +12	E: Sfrf 3.2250 (+0.0050)	
Bargains	25,484	Northern Eng. Ind.	96 +72	E: FFf 11.7770 (+0.0020)	
Datstream USM	111.81 (+0.25)	Celco Haven	54 +4	E: Yen 318.40 (+0.65)	
New York		Austin Reed	124 +12	E: Index: 79.4 (+0.3)	
Dow Jones	1,271.42 (+1.88)	Fogarty	74 +7	New York:	
Tokyo		Pict Pet	146 +13	E: \$1.2760	
Nikkei Dow	12,302.06 (+94.78)	Elam	169 +13	S: DM 3.0275	
Hong Kong		Davy Corp	121 +8	S: Index: 144.1 (+0.1)	
Hang Seng	1,605.97 (-15.33)	Quick Save	202 +12	ECU 80.57784	
Amsterdam	206.8 (-0.3)	Electrocomponents	338 +18	SDR 10.780429	
Sydney: AO	853.4 (-5.6)	Renold	51 +3		
Frankfurt		Geo (Cecil)	138 +8		
Commerzbank	1,220.7 (+6.4)	Dabenhams	260 +14		
Brunswick					
General	224.51 (-9.48)				
Parif. CAC	214.3 (-0.5)	FALLS:			
Zarisk		Intervis Video	3 -1		
SKA General	342.70 (+0.9)	Parings Mining	52 -5		
		CPU Computers	38 -3		
		Minet-Holdings	253 -19		
		Brewmaker	34 -2		
		IoM Steam Packet	85 -5		
		Millard Docks	75 -1		
		Victoria Carpet	30 -2		

GOLD		INTEREST RATES	
London Bidings:		London:	
am \$327.00pm-\$327.35		Bank Base: 13-12%	
close \$328-\$328.50	(2256.25)	3-month interbank 12% -12 1/4%	
\$256.75		3-month eligible bills 12 -11 1/4%	
New York: \$327.65		buying rate	
Comex (June)		US:	
		Prime Rate 10.50%	
		Federal Funds 8 1/4%	
		3-month Treasury Bills 7.80 -7.76%	
		Long bond 8 1/2% -5 1/2% yield	







STOCK MARKET REPORT

# Brokers' fears on currency swings fail to hold down ICI share price

By Derek Pain and Cliff Feltham

The shares of Imperial Chemical Industries gained further ground in the stock market yesterday despite conflicting views of how the group is weathering the swings in currency fluctuations.

First quarter results are due next week and most estimates are pitched around £300 million. However, the chemicals team at de Zoete and Bevan, the broker, has been trimming its estimates from £295 million to £280 million.

The brokers emphasize that they still think the shares - which yesterday gained 16p to 782p - bring the two-day improvement to 29p - still offer superb value.

Events on the foreign exchange markets, particularly the pound's firming against the dollar and the mark, have led them to back-peddle on their estimates. ICI is still far more exposed to the mark than the dollar, despite the recent expansion in the United States.

Mr Robin Hindle Fisher of de Zoete explained: "We think that we have probably been over-estimating the profitability of export contracts in the still open."

As a result, the broker has downgraded its forecast for the full year from £1,140 million to £1,120 million. The exercise

may be only fine-tuning but it does illustrate the concern felt in some areas about ICI's currency exposure.

At the broker Griesven, Grant, the chemicals team agrees that worries about currency swings hurting ICI may have contributed towards depressing the price recently.

Mr Vasant Advani's Grovebell Group should comfortably top £1 million this year after last year's 27 per cent profit advance. Its Atlanta Investment Trust capture is expected to chip in at least £700,000. The company continues to look for medical equipment acquisitions. Grovebell, unchanged at 15p yesterday, has a 14.4 per cent shareholding in Adams and Gibbon, the garage group, resisting a £4.4 million bid from Keep Trust.

But Mr Jeremy Chantry said: "We think the currency fears are exaggerated." The broker is forecasting £260 million in the first quarter and a full-year total of £1,100 million.

As the countdown to the figures gets under way, broker James Capel is in throes of issuing a circular looking towards a £300 million first

quarter total and £1,200 million for the year. Mr Robin Gilbert says currency factors may have to be considered later but is expressing no concern yet.

Equities had a good day with the FT 30 share index climbing 9.3 points to 988.8 points, its best level for nearly four weeks. Hopes of lower interest rates - sterling turned in another firm performance - and a varied array of speculative stocks helped sentiment. The FT-SE share index closed 13.2 points higher at 1,304.0 points.

Government stocks, with a little help from the pound, were up by about 2%.

Among blue chips, Imperial Group enjoyed a late burst, up 7p at 187p, as hopes resurfaced that the brewing, tobacco group had at last clinched a deal to sell its troublesome American catering and hotel group, Howard Johnson. The price movement was helped a little by takeover talk with Hanson Trust, up 6p at 215p, mentioned as the likely bidder.

Commercial Union, the insurance group, touched 232p but closed unchanged at 227p. The market is still banking on a bid with General Accident now emerging as the front runner. It is suggested that CU's troublesome American side will be sold off.

Allianz, the West German group which bid unsuccessfully last year for the Eagle Star insurance business, said it had not "made any significant" share purchases in CU and did not play a bid. The highly secretive Swiss Reinsurance Co. was another to deny any CU interest.

Syntherials, at 8½p, is looking like the perfect "shell". A new issue high-tech flop from James Capel and Co., the broker, the company has promised to repay 6p a share from the remainder of its £20 million new issue proceeds. So the rump of the business, plus residue cash and investments, is in for 2½p a share - almost an investor's paradise.

Debenhams, after Tuesday's dip, rebounded 16p to 262p at one time, settling at 260p. Owen Owen advanced 8p to 188p following its profit advance from £1,187,000 to £1,811,000.

British Telecom rose 4p to 141p on talk of a bullish picture going the rounds in Tokyo. Racal Electronics firmed 8p to 210p ahead of a presentation today on its new military radio. Standard Telephones and Cables rose 7p to 204p ahead of next week's launch of its Estril main frame computer. The product is several months ahead of schedule.

British Petroleum rose 8p to 546p. Windsor Securities, the in-

urance broker, held at 64p. Lander Investments, another insurance group, has acquired a near 15 per cent shareholding and is thought to harbour reverse takeover aspirations. Mr Maurice Fullerton, Windsor's chairman, has not had talks with Lander and said: "I have not the faintest idea whether or not they will bid."

In the year to end last September, Windsor, formerly Brentnall Beard, achieved profits of £296,000.

There was speculation that London and Manchester Securities could emerge as the property vehicle of Mr David Abell's Suter group. L and M was recently the subject of a bid from Amalgamated Estates, now London Securities, which has placed many of the shares it received retaining a 48 per cent shareholding.

It is thought that Suter has picked up a large number of the L and M shares passed through the market at 7p each.

L and M rose 1p to 9½p. London Securities was about 4p.

Banks advanced under the lead of National Westminster which progressed 27p to 599p. Midland was flat, dropping 17p to 255p on the warning about underwriting loss provisions.

Midsummer Inns, the old CAMRA (Real Ale) Investments which was taken over last year by Messrs Adam Page and David Keck, was suspended at 135p. The company appears on the verge of a major acquisition.

## Traded option highlights

It was an active day on the London Traded Option Market yesterday with almost 9,000 bargains completed.

Commercial Union was, once again, the most widely traded

counter. It attracted 2,150 calls and 485 puts.

British Telecom was another in demand with a total of 1,277 contracts.

The gilts contract accounted for 636 bargains.

## TEMPUS

# RTZ caution casts a shadow over results

Rio Tinto-Zinc is finding it hard to please the City these days. Pretax profits of £670 million up from £575 million and attributable earnings of £211 million up from £173 million were pretty much in line with expectations. The company even provided the 2p increase in the dividend to 20p which analysts had been looking for, but still the share price dropped 14p to 641p.

The main source of disquiet was the less than bullish statement about the current year. A slowdown in economic growth will make it difficult for the industrial interests to maintain their progress, a weaker dollar will erode the benefit of currency translation which added £15 million to attributable earnings in 1984 and conditions in the energy sector will remain difficult.

Even though RTZ is a little more optimistic about the prospects for better metal prices, a big upswing is still along way off.

Such caution is understandable. These limiting factors are beyond RTZ's control and it would be a brave, if not foolish, company which was prepared to predict the outcome. However, the message seems to be that the rate of improvement in 1985 will slow.

The star performers for the group in 1984 were RTZ Borax, which benefited substantially from currency translation, and RTZ Pillar.

However, it may be the energy interests which provide the greatest scope for excitement this year, not only through the RTZ subsidiaries but also through the 29.9 per cent stake in Enterprise Oil.

The group still recognizes that it is not earning the returns on capital, averaging 16 per cent in 1984, and whether the new top management

structure, which will more actively involve the heads of the operating divisions in decision-making, will help on this front remains to be seen.

## RMC Group

RMC Group, Britain's largest maker of ready-mixed concrete, is heading for a fall in profits this year. The company gave warning yesterday that profits for the first half will be lower than the buoyant corresponding trading period last year.

There seems little chance of making up the difference in the second six months and pretax profits for the full year are unlikely to be much higher than £75 million against £81.3 million last time. The group made £74.1 million in 1983.

The situation in West Germany, where RMC has nearly a fifth of the ready-mix market, compounded by the atrocious weather in Northern Europe during January and February, is more or less the whole story.

There was a sudden and dramatic fall in West German construction activity during the second half of last year which took almost everyone in the industry by surprise. The situation deteriorated further in the first months of this year because of the bad weather. In the first two months ready-mix volume in West Germany was 66 per cent lower than a year ago and by the end of March it was still more than 50 per cent below the first quarter of 1984.

Most of this bad news is already discounted in the company's share price, which has underperformed the rest of the market by more than 30 per cent over the last year.

On the plus side, borrowings are down to less than 30 per cent of shareholders' funds while the group's carefully

thought out diversifications in Britain and expansion programme in the United States are beginning to pay dividends.

At 366p, where the prospective p/e is 8.8 and the yield 5 per cent, the shares look good value.

## Northern Engineering Industries

Northern Engineering Industries' conviction that its massive restructuring of core businesses worldwide is now over and that productivity and efficiency will flow through this year and beyond is shared by the market. Despite 1984 pretax profits 8.4 per cent down at £40.1 million on turnover slightly ahead, the shares went 9½p higher to 86p.

NEI has spent about £60 million in the past five years reshaping its businesses.

Profits should also recover this year in Britain which showed a 28 per cent downturn in 1984 largely because of a £12.9 million loss on project engineering. Two power stations in Sudan and India were the culprits. The Sudan station is now finished and the Indian one has overcome major problems. The British electrical and industrial side will also benefit this year from the ending of the miners' strike, which cost £2 to £3 million on lost profits last year.

Initial cash payments for big projects are now extremely rare so more working capital is required. NEI ended 1984 with £17 million net cash, against £60 million, and this will probably reduce this year. However, the balance sheet is still strong and, with pretax profits likely to reach £47 million, the prospective p/e ratio of just over 6 is hardly demanding. The yield is also a generous 8.7 per cent.

# AMARI

ALCO • AMARI METALS INC • AMARI PLASTICS • AMARI WORLD STEEL  
CENTURY ALUMINIUM • LEAVLITE

## GROUP RESULTS FOR 1984

	1984	1983
Turnover	£162m	£138m
Profit before Taxation	£6.5m	£2.9m
Dividends per share	2.7p	
Earnings per share	15.8p	5.0p

### Chairman M. Ward Thomas reports:

The overall achievement of the Group is based on good results from all major activities. Provisional results for 1985 indicate that the Group continues to make satisfactory progress in all divisions.

For copies of the Chairman's statement and the Report & Accounts write to the Company Secretary

### AMARI PLC

AMARI HOUSE, 52 HIGH STREET, KINGSTON, SURREY KT1 1HN. TELEPHONE 01-549 6122

# RMC

## Preliminary Announcement

Year ended 31st December 1984

### Financial Highlights

	1984	1983
Turnover	£1174.9	£1048.5
Operating Profit		
United Kingdom	54.7	47.0
West Germany	15.5	18.1
Other countries	15.2	9.0
	85.4	74.1
Related companies	5.1	3.4
Profit before taxation	81.3	71.6
Earnings per share	45.1p	39.5p

Dividend The Directors are to recommend a final dividend of 8.6p per share which, together with the interim of 4.4p, makes a total of 13.0p per share for the year (1983 12.0p).

The 1984 Annual Report will be posted to shareholders on 14th May 1985.

## RMC Group p.l.c.

RMC House, High Street, Feltham, Middlesex TW13 4HA.

Operating internationally in Austria, Belgium, France, Holland, Hong Kong, Israel, Republic of Ireland, Spain, Trinidad, United Kingdom, USA and West Germany.

# Record figures for Scottish Widows new premiums in 1984

The Viscount of Arbuthnott, DSC reporting as Chairman of Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society.

## BONUS DECLARATION

The rates of reversionary bonus declared for 1984 are at the same record levels as for 1983, 5.50% on existing sums assured and vested bonus for ordinary with profits policies and 6.40% for with profits policies in our pension fund. Terminal

bonus rates have been substantially increased, as have cash bonuses for with profit group pension schemes.

What we still do not consider satisfactory, is the basis which life offices use for their new business quotations, using current interim bonus rates and showing terminal bonus based on current rates. We shall be much happier when industry-wide agreement is reached on a basis for producing quotations which are not extravagant and over-optimistic.

## PENSIONS

The first enquiry chaired by the Secretary of State for Social Services into 'personal portable pensions', now referred to as 'personal pensions', resulted in a consultative document which left much unresolved, and we are still waiting for the results of the wide-ranging main inquiry.

We welcomed the recognition in the consultative document that the arrangements for members of pension schemes to opt out of final salary schemes should be introduced on a basis that would not threaten the stability of such schemes. We are however still concerned that members who do exercise the option will not make enough provision for their retirement at an early enough stage, and may make a decision without a full understanding of what is really a very complicated choice, perhaps without fully appreciating the implications for themselves and their dependants.

## INTEREST ON CLAIMS

For many years the Society has paid interest if payment is made more than one month after the date the death claim became payable. We have announced a further improvement in that the interest calculation will in future cover the first month as well.

## SELF REGULATION

Following the publication of the White Paper on Self Regulation the Society is encouraged to see the proposals which are supportive of the ROLAC initiative which is not in the nature of a price control but is rather a measure aimed at ensuring unbiased

advice and value for money for the consumer. With the aim of improving standards the Society further supports the concept of licensing which offers the prospect of a better trained and qualified salesforce and a more ethical professional selling environment.

## STAFF

1984 was once again a year of unusually heavy pressure on all members of the Society's staff, who responded with enthusiasm to a series of new developments and to the challenge of dramatic changes in the environment in which we operate. We thank them for their commitment to maintaining the Society's high reputation in the market as a successful and progressive life office.

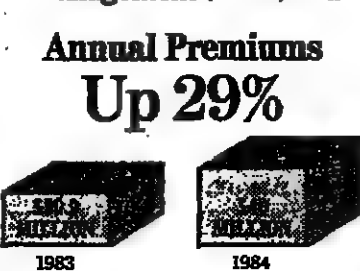
## Single Premium Business Up 23%

## New Annual Premiums for ordinary assurances and annuities Up 30%

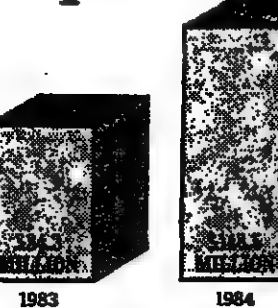


Annual premiums for self-employed business increased by 196% and single premiums by 58%.

## Large Pension Scheme Business including Pensions Management (SWF) Ltd Annual Premiums Up 29%



## Single Premiums Up 76%



## INVESTMENT

Of the £134M available for investment by the Society in 1984 plus £122M realised from net sales of equities, £100M was invested in fixed interest securities, £28M in index-linked stocks and £34M in property, while deposits increased by £94M.

Pensions Management (SWF) Ltd generated a figure of £252M to be invested compared with £133M in 1983.

## FUTURE OUTLOOK

The Society has taken advantage of market opportunities over the past few years and has improved its new business performance as a result. We have a wide range of excellent contracts, we continue to give first class returns to our policyholders and we have an enthusiastic and hard working staff, so we are confident of continuing to increase our share of the market.

# SCOTTISH WIDOWS

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED SCOTTISH LIFE OFFICES

If you would like a copy of the 1984 Report and Accounts, please write to Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society, FREEPOST, Edinburgh EH16 0NE or ask your Inspector or your local Branch of the Society.



## SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND AND LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

### Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 171st Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Society will be held within the Social Office, 15 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh, on Tuesday, the 7th day of May 1985 at 2.30 pm for the following purposes:

To consider the accounts and balance sheets for the year ended 31st December 1984 and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors.

To elect Directors.

To appoint Auditors.

To fix the remuneration of Directors.

To pass, if thought fit, the following Resolution recommended to the Members by the Directors:

"That the remuneration of the Auditors for the current year be fixed by the Directors of the Society."

To consider and, if thought fit, pass the following Resolution which will be proposed as a Special Resolution:

"That the regulations of the Society be altered by the deletion of regulation 91 (Indemnity of officers, etc., of Society) thereof and the substitution thereof of a new regulation 91 as follows: 91. — (1) Every director, local director, chief executive, secretary, trustee, receiver or other officer or employee for the time being of the Society, and his executors, personal representatives and administrators, shall be entitled to be indemnified out of the funds of the Society against all actions, costs, charges, losses, liabilities, damages and expenses which he or his executors or personal representatives or administrators shall incur or sustain by reason or in consequence of anything done, omitted, suffered or omitted by him in or about the execution or discharge of his duties (or supposed duties), or the exercise of his powers, in his office, trust or employment or otherwise in relation to or in connection with his duties, powers, office, trust or employment (including without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, any liability incurred by him as such director, local director, chief executive, secretary, trustee, receiver or other officer or employee in defending any proceedings, civil or criminal, in which judgment or decree is given in his favour or in which he is acquitted or in connection with any application or proceedings in which he is relieved by the court, either wholly or partly, from his liability), except such actions, costs, charges, losses, liabilities, damages and expenses (if any) as he or his executors or personal representatives or administrators shall incur or sustain by or through his own wilful neglect or wilful default."

(2) No director, local director, chief executive, secretary, trustee, receiver or other officer or employee for the time being of the Society, or his executors or personal representatives or administrators, shall be liable or answerable for the acts, receipts, neglects or defaults of any other director, local director, chief executive, secretary, trustee, receiver or other officer or employee of the Society or of any auditor or law agent, or by reason of his having joined in any receipt for money not received by him personally, nor shall he be liable or answerable for any banker, broker, collector or other person with whom or into whose hands any property or moneys of the Society shall or may be lodged or deposited or come, or for the insufficiency or deficiency of the title to, or the depreciation in the value of, any security or investment or other property which may from time to time be acquired for or on behalf of the Society or for the insolvency or deficiency of any investment or security in or upon which any of the funds of or belonging to the Society shall be placed or invested, or for any other loss, misfortune or damage whatsoever which may happen in the execution of his office, trust or employment or in relation thereto, unless the same shall happen by or through his own wilful neglect or wilful default."

To transact any other ordinary business proper to an Annual General Meeting.

Forms of Proxy for the use of Members of the Society who are unable to be present at the Meeting, but who may wish to vote thereat, may be obtained on application to the undersigned. To be effective Proxies must reach the Society's Head Office not less than two clear working days before the time for holding the Meeting. A proxy need not be a member of the Society.

C. M. CAVAYE  
Managing Director  
15 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh EH16 8BU  
2 April 1985

NOTE: A copy of the Report will be sent on request to any Member who would like to have one.

## CARRICKFERGUS MARINA — NORTHERN IRELAND.

### Franchise for the provision of Marine Services.

The historic and picturesque town of Carrickfergus occupies a strategic location on the shores of Belfast Lough some five miles from Belfast and within easy reach of more than 350,000 persons.

Its many advantages prompted the Council to develop its Marina and Maritime Leisure Park which will include 300 marina berths and facilities for a full range of maritime services.

The Council is seeking proposals from those interested in the Franchise for the provision of marine services. These include chandlery, boat sales, brokerage, boat repairs, boat hoist, fuel berth, etc.

Interested parties should contact the Council's agents for details; the Council is not required to accept the highest or any tender.

MILNICH CROTHERS  
Commercial Estate Agents and Development Consultants  
51/53 Upper Arthur Street, Belfast BT1 4GJ

## Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	13%
Adams & Company	12 1/2%
Barclays	12 1/2%
BCCI	13 1/4%
Citibank Savings	12 1/2%
Consolidated Creds	13 1/4%
Continental Trust	13%
C. Hoare & Co	13%
Lloyds Bank	13%
Midland Bank	12 3/4%
Nat Westminster	13%
TSB	13%
Williams & Glyn's	13%
Citibank NA	13%

1 Mortgage Base Rate.

# Moore reiterates need for earnings limit abolition

By Richard Thomson

The Treasury issued a strong defence yesterday of the abolition of the upper earnings limit on employers' national insurance contributions, to be considered during the third reading of the Social Security Bill today.

The defence is in the form of an open letter from Mr John Moore, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, to Sir John Hoskyns, director-general of the Institute of Directors, and comes in the face of growing opposition to the NIC measure.

Mr Moore argues that abolition is necessary within the Government's overall economic

strategy to fund reductions in insurance contributions for lower paid employees. These reductions, aimed at stimulating employment for the lower paid, would cost the Government £880 million in the first year after their introduction in October, the letter says.

Abolishing the upper limit for higher-paid employees will bring in £800 million. But employers benefited by a total of £900 million from the abolition of the national insurance surcharge last year.

The letter says that in most cases the change will cost a

maximum of 2 to 3 per cent of employers' gross salary expenses. But the evidence was that with higher-paid employees' salaries rising, also at about 2 to 3 per cent annually above inflation, the extra cost could easily be absorbed.

The Institute of Directors said the letter took the debate no further and was a clear indication that the Government was alarmed at growing opposition to the measure. Those opposing the move in the House of Commons are led by Sir William Clarke, chairman of the Finance Committee and Mr Michael Grylls.

## Profits rise by 17% at Dewhirst

By Alison Eadie

I. J. Dewhirst, the clothing manufacturer which sell 90 per cent of its output to Marks and Spencer, made pretax profits in the year to January 13, of £4 million, a rise of 17.3 per cent. Turnover rose 27.7 per cent to £4.3 million.

Operating profits rose by 25.8 per cent, but net investment income fell to £268,000 from £445,000, reducing the increase in taxable profits. Trading margins were slightly lower at 8.7 per cent (8.8).

Substantial capital expenditure is planned this year to improve productivity and to increase production capacity in growth areas. Sales in the first 12 weeks of the current year and forward orders are appreciably ahead of a year ago, and the increased sales should result in a continued growth in profits in the first half.

A final dividend of 0.81p per share is being recommended, making a total of 1.10p per share, a 15.3 per cent increase over 1983. A one-for-five issue is also proposed, because of the further growth in the assets and profits of the group.

## Reverse takeover for Ambrosiano

Rome-Nuovo Banco Ambrosiano will complete tidying up the heritage left in Italy by the late Signor Roberto Calvi by merging with its financial and investment subsidiary, La Centrale. Technically, it will be a reverse takeover, as the Nuovo Banco will be absorbed by La Centrale which will then be renamed Nuovo Banco Ambrosiano.

## Shops still the best property investment

By Judith Huntley  
Commercial Property Correspondent

Property investors' love affair with retail property is still to be seen from the new property index produced by Weatherall Green & Smith, the firm of Chartered surveyors.

Shops have seen better than average rental growth in the five years from 1980 covered in the index. The result has been strong competition for good investments and falling yields. Yields are now at 5.02 per cent with top quality properties being sold at under 4 per cent.

Retail property accounts for 25.62 per cent of the 400 properties, valued at £500 million, in the portfolio used as the basis of the index.

Offices account for 43.95 per cent of the portfolio despite the unexciting performance the sector has turned in. Industrial property on the other hand has fallen from 24.3 per cent of the portfolio to 17.55 per cent. But the agent says rental values

could rise this year. If this is the case total returns on property should outstrip the 9.75 per cent seen last year.

The index shows that during the past five years, total returns rose from 100 to 192.12 with capital growth rising from 100 to 141.85. This shows an annual return of 14 per cent and a compound capital growth rate of 7 per cent.

The Weatherall Green index is based on its quarterly and monthly valuations of the portfolios of its investment fund clients many of whom are unitized funds.

● J. Walter Thomson, the advertising agency, is paying £28 a sq ft for new offices in Farm Street, Mayfair, London, a record rent for the area. It has taken 3,795 sq ft at 37 Farm Street, a new building developed for the British Petroleum Pension Trust.

## Etam surges 22% with more growth expected

By Jeremy Warner

Etam, the womenswear which was floated on the stock market a year ago, yesterday reported a 22 per cent surge in profits for the year to January 26.

Pretax profits rose from £7 million to £8.6 million on sales 18 per cent higher at £56.5 million. The group's cash mountain also rose from £8 million at the beginning of the year to about £9.5 million.

Results so far this year are ahead of the same period of 1984 and in line with budget.

The board is confident the company would continue to grow steadily by acquiring new trading sites and refitting its existing chain.

On the stock market, Etam shares rose 6p to 162p after the profits news. This compares with the 95p price at which the shares were floated last June by County Bank.

Etam said the capital spending last year rose from £3.9 million to £6.2 million.

Etam has a nationwide network of more than 100 shops.

# APV HOLDINGS

## Extract from the group profit and loss account for 1984

	1984 £m	1983 £m
Turnover	412	374
Profit on ordinary activities before tax	8.6	18.3
Taxation	5.0	7.2
Profit after tax	3.6	11.1
Minorities	—	.6
Earnings	3.6	10.5
Extraordinary charges	9.5	3.7
(Loss)/Profit after extraordinary items	(5.9)	6.8
Earnings per share (basic)	11.2p	34.1p
Ordinary dividends	11.25p	11.25p

## Extracts from the statement by the Chairman, Sir Ronald McIntosh KCB

The rationalisation programme announced in July 1984 has involved a fundamental examination of all our companies. Action has been taken to ensure that their overhead structure is properly matched to expected demand.

The programme involves non-recurring expenditure of £10 million. Some of this has already been incurred and although the programme will continue through 1985 and beyond, the relevant costs have been provided for, as an extraordinary item, in 1984. Reduction of overheads, when the programme is complete, will be of the order of £5 million.

Increased turnover in 1984 was evenly spread around the group. The decline in profit, however, was concentrated on a narrower range of companies mainly in the UK, South Africa and Australia. Most other group companies con-

tinued to do well.

High priority is being given to improving the quality and market relevance of the group's research and development. A unique process for cheddar cheese manufacture has been developed; the group's involvement in developing process plant for new biological products has increased; the improved ACCOS automation system has proved acceptable for controlling a much wider range of processes.

The group entered 1985 with a larger order book than it had at the beginning of 1984 and the order intake in the first quarter of 1985 remains encouraging. The benefits of the rationalisation programme and the stricter controls now in operation during the engineering and commissioning stages of large contracts should be increasingly felt in 1985 and 1986.

## Results from Sun Life Assurance Society plc for the year ended 31st December 1984.

### Salient Points:

- Premium income rose by £26m to a total of £416m.
- Total group funds exceeded £3bn for the first time, reaching £3,267m by 31st December, 1984, an increase of £530m.
- Transfers of surpluses to shareholders rose by a record £2.0m to £10.9m, 23% up on 1983.

Results	1984 £000s	1983 £000s
Revenue account transfer:		
Proprietors' share of profits	9,318	8,282
Sun Life Assurance Society plc	1,170	500
Sun Life Pensions Management Ltd	420	75
Sun Life Unit Assurance Ltd	10,908	8,857
Proprietors' investment income	1,688	1,608
	12,596	10,465
Expenses	133	111
Employees' Profit Sharing Scheme	498	362
Taxation	301	341
Proprietors' profit for year after tax	11,664	9,651
Balance brought forward	7,299	7,120
Subsidiary company adjustments	2	31
	18,965	16,802
Dividends paid	4,551	3,737
declared for payment	7,020	5,766
Balance carried forward	7,394	7,299

- A record £94m was distributed to policyholders as bonuses, double the distribution made four years ago.
- The final dividend of 12.00p per share makes a total for the year of 19.78p an increase of 20% on 1983.

For a copy of the 1984 Report and Accounts of one of the country's most successful life offices, contact: Alan Bell, Sun Life Assurance Society plc, 107 Chesapeake, London EC2V 6DU Telephone: 01-606 7788



A major force in British Life for 175 years











Football: Everton widen the gap at the top

Southall enhances his reputation

Everton, the side who have forgotten how to lose, took another step closer to the League title on Tuesday night. Their 4-1 home win over West Bromwich Albion put them seven points clear of Manchester United and they have now gone 22 games without defeat since their 4-3 reverse at home to Chelsea on December 22.

"That was another important win for us after extra time and the difficult game against Luton on Saturday," the Everton manager, Howard Kendall, said. "It increased our points, increased our goal difference and increased our goalkeeper's reputation."

Southall made brilliant saves from Grealish and Hunt and Rattiffe cleared off the line as Albion sought a quick equalizer. Everton had taken only two minutes to score through Atkins, who was making only his second full appearance as a replacement for the injured Mountfield.

Two goals from Sharp, one from a penalty, took his season tally to 27 and Sheedy scored the other. Grealish was the Albion marksman.

In the relegation zone, Ipswich slipped back into the bottom three by losing 3-1 at Watford, while Luton won by the same score at home to Norwich. Ipswich, who could have been soundly beaten, were only faultily saved by an injury time effort by Barnes. Luton trailed to a Channon goal at half-time, but Nwajobi scored twice and Moss converted a disputed penalty.

Norwich manager, Ken Brown, who has been in trouble recently with the Football Association for his after-match comments against Arsenal, chose his words carefully when asked about the penalty. He said: "What is there to say about it? You tell me. The referee said: 'You centre-half pushed him off the ball. But I couldn't see anything wrong.'"

The Ipswich manager, Bobby Ferguson, whose side was watched by his predecessor, now the England manager Bobby Robson, said: "The first Watford goal was a comic save affair, their second came from a set piece and we knew what they were going to do but did nothing about it, and we should have stopped their third." Besides banking on Butcher not to repeat the kind of mistake that prevented Watford with their first goal, Ipswich's main hope is that five of their last eight games are at home, including fixtures with other strugglers, Coventry, Stoke and West Ham.

Sunderland scraped a home point in a goalless draw with Sheffield Wednesday, whose manager, Howard Wilkinson, said: "Sunderland did not lie down and surrender. They got in where it hurts and it would be dangerous to write them off at this stage."

Birmingham City are on course for a quick return to the first division after a 3-0 home win over Crystal Palace. Geddis headed his 22nd goal of the season. Clarke and Kennedy added the others.

Cambridge are still on the way down. Their defeat at Millwall means that they are the first League side to know their fate, with relegation to the fourth division secured. An even goal by Moses and Ipswich's penalty maintained Millwall's unbeaten home record and kept them in the chase for promotion.

Gillingham stayed on their heels, by winning with a 1-0 away win at Walsall, whose substitute, Rice, was sent off after a five-minute appearance.

Saint-Etienne's old spirit revived by the cup

Bristol Rovers kept their hopes alive with a 4-0 trouncing of Barnley, who slipped closer to the fourth division. Bradford, the leaders, won at Newport with a 1-0 goal and went nine points ahead of Hull. Chesterfield, the fourth division pacemakers, filtered away to struggling Wrexham, who beat them with a Barnes own goal and a Keay penalty.

Luton's first division match against Arsenal on May 4 will kick off at 11.30am instead of three o'clock in an attempt to reduce the risk of crowd trouble. Arsenal will be the first London club to visit Luton since the Millwall cup tie last month which ended in a riot.

Luton's home game with Everton, postponed last week, because Everton were involved in Europe, has been provisionally arranged for Monday, May 13. Should Everton reach the final of the European Cup Winners' Cup, the game will be postponed until Monday, May 27.

MADRID: The Real Madrid coach Amancio Amaro has been named as the club's first team coach and has been temporarily replaced by the general manager Luis Molowny.

Shaw on his way back

Gary Shaw, Aston Villa's former England Under-21 forward, will start his comeback on Saturday as his comeback on Saturday after a knee injury that threatened his career.

Shaw, who has been missing from the first team for 14 months, will play for the youth side at Stoke.

A specialist has given him the go-ahead to play again after recovering from four knee operations.

Ron Green, the Shrewsbury goalkeeper who has been on loan with Bristol Rovers, is set to join the third division side for a £12,000 deal. Green, signed by Shrewsbury from Walsall last summer as a £10,000 replacement for Steve Ogriscic, helped Rovers after losing his first team place to Steve Parks. In 12 games for them he has kept a clean sheet nine times.

East Germany's elite thrive on science and will to win

East Germany has achieved a remarkable level of success in international sport. In the second instalment of a three-part series, DAVID MILLER studies the country's sophisticated selection process, its use of sports science, and its network of elite residential clubs.

In an ageing anorak and roll neck sweater, Gunter Lein has that same slightly weather-beaten look as Eddie Thomas, one of our north-eastern middle-distance coaches: track-suited open air professors. Though not among the known track and field coaches, Lein is typical of the men and women who guide East German competitors unerringly towards the medal rostrums around the world. For 23 years he has been a specialist in high jumping, especially for women, at the sports club associated with the famous Leipzig graduate college of physical culture, one of the 27 elite residential clubs for the training of teenagers into world champions.

Since its foundation in 1934, the DHfK club has alone produced 32 Olympic gold medal winners, 20 silver and 13 bronze. Lein, with two degrees from the college, has instructed coaches abroad and taught prominent jumpers such as Rita Schmidt, five times European indoor champion, and Andrea Reichstein, third of three East Germans in the first six in the 1980 Olympics. As with most of their coaches, he works with both local and national competitors. The most significant moment when I visited a morning indoor training session was his response to my comment of surprise that the facilities were not the chromium-plated luxury which we tend automatically to believe is normal. It was a small hall and about as scruffy as could be.

"It's not always the conditions that matter, it's the will of the competitors," Lein said with a smile. "The better the conditions, the worse the performance often is. We were trained in this country to produce from nothing. We grew up without central heating. Now the youngsters will complain if the temperature drops below 12 degrees."

The DHfK officials showing me around murmured disapprovingly that perhaps this was too much of a generalization, but I could not miss the knowing look of the man in the anorak; he recognizes that, whether you are Russian or American or German and have unlimited facilities, character will always be half the battle. "There are usually subjective factors," he says. Undoubtedly, he admitted that he could profitably use for training the small but expensive transportable video cameras that he had seen abroad.

Diligent research and development in coaching, physiology and sports medicine have taken East Germany a long way since the day their squad returned from the Nordic skiing championships in 1954, ending a 10-yearing trip across the frozen Baltic and having been the laughing stock of the Scandinavian specialists. A Swedish cartoon showed race officials huddled around a night-time brazier, with the caption: "Waiting for the East German women's team." In those days, the prize for a race at home could be half a pound of precious butter. On a trip to Scandinavia the competitors had tested white bread for the first time ever.

In the Sarajevo Winter Olympics last year, East Germany won 24 medals.

"Almost everyone with whom I spoke was emphatic that the enthusiasm and willpower of individuals should not be underestimated. Dr Ernst Stoller, chairman of the DHfK club, said: 'Our aim may be the Olympics and international championships, but we try to breed a collective feeling and to study individual character. If there is pride in the club, then national pride will follow.'"

"His club specializes in athletics canoeing, rowing, diving, swimming, gymnastics and cycling. Last year they entered 27 competitors in international competition and only three came home without a medal. But there is a coaching staff of 100 for 560 resident pupils. Normal academic studies at all the elite schools are fitted around the physical training, for it is the national boast that no athlete shall be without the qualifications for a regular job when retiring from sport. 'We concentrate

on the best youngsters, and that way we are sure of efficiency,' says Dr Stoller.

Anthropometry is a key to achieving such pinnacles from a population of only 17 million, and my impression over a week was that this study of physical measurement begins not with teenagers but with children as young as seven. Ultimate strength and endurance potential are not the concern; these factors can be induced by training. What the specialists are anxious to establish are capacities for co-ordination and learning. The appraisal by sports medicine officials is vital in determining the direction for youngsters. Dr Irving Dattik, chairman of the sports medicine council, says: "One reason for our success is the organized programme of sports science."

Dr Klaus Gottschalk, the vice chairman, says that the direction of youngsters is in such a way "that there is no harm to the athlete. Recognition of errors is determined at an early age, and we will always be in favour of the competitor's health. The coach starts from the position of having responsibility to the competitor."

It is, I believe, a misconception that East Germany manipulates individual athletes. Where their sports science and medicine places them ahead of the field is in the ability to predict and select on the basis of physiological suitability from an early age.

"We get the right people into the right sports," says Klaus Huhn, a correspondent of *Neues Deutschland*, the Berlin newspaper. "The only sport in which we have mechanical technical advantage is bobsleigh. We pool all our knowledge from different sports to mutual advantage."

Cross-fertilization of ideas is standard procedure, compared with Britain, where a hockey coach would never dream of talking to a gymnast. While I was in East Germany, some 300 senior national coaches from all sports were having one of their regular quarterly conferences.

Bridging the whole national structure is the work of the Leipzig College of Physical Culture, which in 35 years has produced 12,000 qualified coaches and 450 doctors.

The college has four faculties: social science (theory of physical education, psychology, and so on); medicine/biomechanics/physiology; stamina sports (athletics, swimming, skiing, cycling, and so on); technical sports (gymnastics, diving, judo, weightlifting and ball games). The intake is 250 students a year, with a further 200 working through postal colleges. There are 80 places for foreigners, predominantly from the Socialist and developing countries. It is the exodus from the college which provides the untending articulation of training and organization at all levels of the "miracle machine": children and youth, leisure and recreation, community work, armed services and international competition.

with post-graduate degrees in sports science. The college's joint objectives in a four-year course are the education of coaches and teachers, and the production of researchers. When it was founded in 1950, at a time of post-war hardship, the justification was that its creation would in future reduce the need for hospitals. *Mens sana in corpore sano* on that principle is established: the exceptional national investment in sport of 7 per cent of all industrial profits.

The college has four faculties: social science (theory of physical education, psychology, and so on); medicine/biomechanics/physiology; stamina sports (athletics, swimming, skiing, cycling, and so on); technical sports (gymnastics, diving, judo, weightlifting and ball games). The intake is 250 students a year, with a further 200 working through postal colleges. There are 80 places for foreigners, predominantly from the Socialist and developing countries. It is the exodus from the college which provides the untending articulation of training and organization at all levels of the "miracle machine": children and youth, leisure and recreation, community work, armed services and international competition.



Victory smile: East Germany's Marita Koch (right) is elated when she wins the 1980 Olympic 400 metres final.

East Germans' Olympic record			
Winter Games			
	Gold	Silver	Bronze
1956 Cortina	2	1	1
1960 Squaw Valley	2	1	1
1964 Innsbruck	2	2	1
1968 Grenoble	1	2	2
1972 Sapporo	4	3	7
1976 Innsbruck	5	5	7
1980 Lake Placid	9	9	6
1984 Sarajevo	9	9	6
Summer Games			
1956 Melbourne	1	4	2
1960 Rome	3	9	7
1964 Tokyo	3	11	8
1968 Mexico City	8	9	7
1972 Munich	20	22	23
1976 Montreal	40	25	25
1980 Moscow	47	57	42

Prior to 1956 East Germany was excluded and until 1980 competed as part of West Germany.



















# Militias split a nation into fragments amid gunfire and blood



Druze militiamen fire a Jeep-mounted heavy machine-gun in yesterday's Beirut fighting.

From Robert Fisk  
Beirut

"Pity the nation divided into fragments, each fragment deeming itself a nation," the Lebanese poet Khalil Gibran wrote in 1934. The militias of West Beirut proved him right yesterday in gunfire and blood.

You only had to walk into Sakiet el Jazir to see how true it all was. The narrow roadways between the high-rise apartment blocks were slippery with cartridge cases, the gunmen lounging in doorways or lying exhausted on the pavements after the night's slaughter, their presence a crude mixture of oil and sweat, tired eyes and the smell of sweat.

And there in the lobby of an apartment block behind them lay the body of a middle-aged man, his stomach bunched out onto the black marble hallway, a trail of blood running right out onto the street.

His killers went on slitting outside, nursing their automatic weapons as two Red Cross men pushed the corpse into a transparent plastic bag, and heaved it onto a stretcher, the dead hands straining into the fabric as if trying to escape.

A fat gunman on the corner yawned. Another grinned as he re-adjusted his green religious headband. In the smoky morning sunlight, the street positively glowed with the spent cartridges.

In a house near by, a man broke down in tears, screaming and raving, firing a pistol into

the sky in rage. No one knew why.

Beirut's anarchy, after all, thrives on ignorance. For hours during the previous night, hundreds of militiamen had fought through the commercial streets of West Beirut, blasting the apartment blocks with rocket-propelled grenades, spraying windows with automatic rifle fire. At four yesterday morning, I put my head round the corner of the Commodore Hotel's foyer to find 20 heavily armed men standing there, each in green fatigues.

Four of them had set up a heavy machine-gun on a tripod by the front door and were firing wildly into the darkness. Through the glass partition, there was a car burning in the street.

"Why are you here?" I asked one of the men. His face was covered in grime but he tried to smile. The machine-gun at the door began to fire, deafening, rhythmic and pointlessly into the void.

"I don't know," the gunman shouted back at me above the din.

The gunmen were from the Shia Muslim Amal movement - controlled suitably enough, by the Minister of Justice - and an official came along at the trot a little later, brandishing a pistol and a two-way radio. "Shout *Allahu akbar* (God is greater)," he screamed at his men. And they did just that.

The radio said the govern-

ment Army would intervene but at dawn I found an Army Saladin abandoned near the American Hospital, its gun aimed stupidly at a tree, its heavy machine-gun swung idly from the turret. At Raouche, the soldiers of the Lebanese Army's 6th brigade just ran away. When I drove up in a friend's car later, I was stopped by a teenage gunman.

Who was he, we asked? "Amal," he replied with a grin. "Have a nice day."

It was hard to do that. After a night of fearful explosions that seemed to go on as much inside one's head as in the streets outside, even the militia seemed a little stunned.

Up in Corniche Mazraa, Amal's Sunni Muslim Nasserite enemies used to run a radio station from a mosque, now spattered with fresh bullet holes. The transmitter went off the air during the night, and yesterday there were Shia gunmen outside with green Islamic cloths round their foreheads, looting the contents of the broadcasting offices in the mosque, hurling radio tapes across the boulevard with hopes of laughter and making off with piles of books. A crowd of youths carrying bags of hand-grenades looked on in admiration.

"Pity the nation that is full of beliefs and empty of religion," Gibran wrote. "Pity the nation that acclaims the bully as hero..." Lebanon, it seems, is destined to go on fulfilling the prophecies of its national poet.



Heavily armed Shia Muslim militia celebrate victory over their rivals after 15 hours of fighting.

## Premier quits over Beirut militia battles

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Four of Beirut's dailies failed to appear in the morning.

Amal gunmen, who like to present themselves as the principal enemies of Israel rather than their own country, commandeered Lebanese Army armoured vehicles. Druze militiamen brazenly took charge of an army Jeep on the seafloor by forcing government soldiers to stand against a wall with their hands in the air at the point of a rocket-propelled grenade.

Amid such chaos, another Israeli air raid against Palestinians in the Bekaa valley went almost unnoticed in Beirut. Israeli jets attacked what was said to be a base area for members of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine near the village of Bar Elias.



A guard is placed on the front of the nearly demolished headquarters of the pro-Nasserite Morabitoun militia.

## Defence papers handed over

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, has sidestepped an embarrassing Commons dispute and possible legal action by agreeing to hand over crucial reports covering billions of pounds of worth of defence spending - to Parliament's expenditure watchdog (Richard Evans writes).

Four papers prepared for Mr Heseltine by Mr Peter Levene, private adviser to the defence secretary before he took up his £95,000-a-year job as Whitehall's chief of defence procurement last month, were given to Sir Gordon Downey, Comptroller and Auditor-General.

Mr Heseltine's decision to release the reports on the future of the royal dockyards, equipping the armed forces, warship procurement and defence stockpiles, followed detailed consultations with Cabinet

## Rugby tour go-ahead draws angry reaction

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the streets in unprecedented numbers.

The tour is expected to open in July. Meanwhile the England rugby team, which visited South Africa last year and is to play in New Zealand next month, is likely to become a principal focus of protest.

Mr Geoffrey Palmer, the deputy Prime Minister, said the decision marked a day of shame. The Government had used every constitutional means, but the rugby union had defied all appeals, including the unanimous wish of Parliament. The outcome represented a propaganda victory for South Africa.

It is understood in Canberra that Mr Hawke and Mr Lange discussed the possibility of Australia's denying transit rights to the team on its way to South Africa. It would normally fly via Australia.

But the decision would be delicate for Australia's Labour administration, which would be reluctant to take action which could be interpreted as interfering with personal liberties.

In Addis Ababa, Mr Yidnekatchew Tessema, president of the Union of African Sports Confederation, said New Zealand should be barred from taking part in the Commonwealth Games, and called for a sports boycott of South Africa.

He called on Commonwealth states, particularly India, Pakistan and the Caribbean countries, to demonstrate "solidarity with the black man by supporting efforts to exclude New Zealand from the Commonwealth..." if the tour took place.

He said the New Zealand Government must "come all the way and stop the tour, as the French did in 1983 - or face the wrath of Africa and its friends."

The decision was welcomed jubilantly by white South Africans.

Dr Craven described it as a "bold decision" which was "tremendous news not only for South African rugby but also for the cause of sport against politics."

He knew a number of members of anti-apartheid organization and had been assured that their protests would be peaceful. "They certainly do not want violence."

## Today's events

**Royal engagements**  
The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh attend a banquet given in their honour by President Banda of Malawi, Cambridge, 8.30.

**New exhibitions**  
Work by members of the Tunbridge Wells and the district branch of the Embroiderers' Guild: Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Mount Pleasant, Tunbridge Wells, Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 9.30 to 5 (ends May 11).

**Paintings by Wendy Raphael**  
The Ginnel Gallery, 16 Lloyd St, Manchester, Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 4 (ends May 10).

**Exhibitions in progress**  
Cadbury's National Exhibition of Children's Art, 1000-1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1029, 1030, 1031, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1041, 1042, 1043, 1044, 1045, 1046, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1050, 1051, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1066, 1067, 1068, 1069, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1074, 1075, 1076, 1077, 1078, 1079, 1080, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1085, 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1094, 1095, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1107, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1112, 1113, 1114, 1115, 1116, 1117, 1118, 1119, 1120, 1121, 1122, 1123, 1124, 1125, 1126, 1127, 1128, 1129, 1130, 1131, 1132, 1133, 1134, 1135, 1136, 1137, 1138, 1139, 1140, 1141, 1142, 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146, 1147, 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151, 1152, 1153, 1154, 1155, 1156, 1157, 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